IHA's Daily Briefing: June 9

Tuesday, June 9, 2020

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IHA Leadership Webinars Kick Off June 25


The expert-led webinar series kicks off on June 25 with "Bite-Size Coping During Times of Uncertainty," led by John Bryan Sexton, PhD. Sexton will focus on emotional exhaustion among healthcare workers during COVID-19. He is a longstanding advocate of restoring joy in the workplace, which can improve patient satisfaction and workplace relationships while reducing medication errors, and depression and suicide. An expert in psychology and resilience, Sexton directs the Duke Center for Healthcare Safety and Quality at Duke University in North Carolina.

The series continues throughout the summer with:

- "COVID-19: What's Next and How to Plan" on July 9;
- "The Post-COVID Healthcare Landscape: Implications for Strategy" on July 23;
- "How Hospitals and Health Systems Can Lead a 'Quiet Revolution' for Healing During a Pandemic" on Aug. 6;
- "When Good Intentions Aren't Good Enough: How Unconscious Bias Harms Patients Amid COVID-19" on Aug. 20; and
- "The New Healthcare Ecosystem" on Sept. 3.

All webinars are from noon to 1 p.m. For the full agenda and information on continuing education credits, see our registration page. Register today.

Action Required: Second COVID-19 Hotspot Payment

Today, the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced $10 billion will be distributed across hospitals in COVID-19 hotspots. To determine eligibility for this funding, hospitals must submit updated information on the number of COVID-19 positive-inpatient admissions from Jan. 1, 2020 through June 10, 2020 by June 15 at 8:00 p.m. CDT. Data should be reported through the TeleTracking portal using the same login information used for previous submissions. Submitting these data is a prerequisite to payment, but is not a guarantee of eligibility for payment. More information can be found here.

Additional Distributions from the Provider Relief Fund

HHS today also announced additional distributions from the Provider Relief Fund for safety net hospitals and Medicaid and CHIP providers. HHS plans to distribute $10 billion to safety net hospitals this week, sending payments directly to hospitals via direct deposit, with a minimum payment of $5 million and a maximum payment of $50 million. No additional action is needed from Safety Net Hospitals to receive these funds.
Approximately 38% of the Medicaid and CHIP providers have not yet received payments from the Provider Relief Fund. HHS expects to distribute approximately $15 billion to these providers, many of whom are safety net providers operating on thin margins. Providers who received payments under the $50 billion Provider Relief Fund General Distribution are ineligible. Payments to eligible providers will equal at least 2% of reported gross revenue from patient care, with the final amount each provider receives determined after data are submitted.

More information on these distributions and the Provider Relief Fund can be found on IHA's website and the HHS Provider Relief Fund website.

State, National, Global COVID-19 Update

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced today 797 new COVID-19 cases and 95 deaths. The total number of cases in the state is 129,212 in 101 counties, with a total of 6,018 deaths. IDPH says that in the past 24 hours, 20,309 test specimens have been processed, with a positivity rate of 3.9%. The preliminary seven-day statewide positivity rate from June 2 to June 8 is 4%. Statewide COVID-19 hospitalizations in the past 24 hours increased from 2,496 patients to 2,573 patients. Of that figure, 726 patients are in the ICU, with 437 patients on ventilators.

To help employees return to the workplace, the state has distributed more than 450,000 cloth face masks to private sector businesses that support critical infrastructure sectors. In the coming days, the state will also distribute more than 18,000 thermometers to licensed daycare providers to help facilitate temperature checks and health screenings, as recommended by IDPH.

Current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) figures show more than 1.95 million confirmed and presumptive positive cases of COVID-19 in the U.S., with 110,925 deaths.

The latest WHO Situation Report shows more than 7 million COVID-19 cases globally, with more than 404,000 deaths. The Region of the Americas (includes the U.S.) continues to lead the world with more than 3.3 million cases and nearly 184,000 deaths.

Yesterday, WHO officials said the global situation is worsening, with 136,000 new cases reported Sunday, a record for a single day. Nearly 75% of the new cases come from 10 countries, mostly in the Americas and South Asia.

Webinar Recording: Chicago Fair Workweek Ordinance

On June 1, IHA co-hosted a webinar on the city’s Fair Workweek Ordinance for members with Chicago Office of Labor Standards (OLS) Director Andrew Fox. He explained the new rules and answered questions. A recording of the webinar can be accessed here.

On May 20, the Chicago City Council passed an amendment (O2019-3928) to the ordinance (O2019-3928), which delays the private right of action provision (i.e., an employee’s right to sue) for an employer’s noncompliance with the scheduling requirements until Jan. 1, 2021. This amendment recognized that, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many employers cannot accurately predict scheduling.

On May 12, OLS published the Fair Workweek rules, including Fair Workweek COVID-19 rules. The rules, which are in two separate documents, can be found on the Department of Law Rules Portal.

New Law Temporarily Adds FQHCs to SASETA

Last Friday (June 5), Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed into law Senate Bill 557 / PA 101-0634, which temporarily adds approved federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) to the Sexual Assault Survivors Emergency Treatment Act (SASETA). The new law seeks to expand medical forensic service options to sexual assault survivors during the COVID-19 pandemic.
FQHCs seeking to provide medical forensic services to sexual assault survivors will be subject to the same requirements as hospitals and approved pediatric healthcare facilities, with the difference being qualified medical providers, physicians, physician assistants and advance practice registered nurses at the FQHC must complete 10 hours of sexual assault training prior to providing medical forensic exams and evidence collection.

For more information, see IHA's summary memo.

Briefly Noted

IDPH will host a COVID-19 Situational Update webinar on Wednesday, June 10 at 11 a.m. to provide the latest information on the coronavirus disease outbreak and Illinois preparedness efforts. Register here.