



COVID-19 Special Edition # 2 - March 20, 2020



Greetings - we hope this finds you, your family, and loved ones in good health.

In Illinois, starting March 21 at 5:00 p.m. central time, we are all under a Stay at Home Order through April 7. Before we were under a Social Distancing Order that allowed people to go about their daily activities while taking extra health and safety precautions. The Stay at Home order requires people to remain in their homes unless they have an essential job or are doing an essential task like going to the grocery store or walking a pet. In Illinois, please check the [Illinois Frequently Asked Questions](#) on Stay at Home Order.

However, we know that each state is different, but we do have some common issues that are confronting all consumers, patients, nursing home residents, healthcare providers, and public health professionals.

Our next Edition will be out on Monday and will cover COVID-19 Testing and TeleHealth, which is turning out to be a lifeline for many people during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Need for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) - Needed Now

Hospitals across the United States are in great need for PPE, especially the N95 Masks. In addition to hospitals using N95 masks, construction companies and dental offices often times use and have a stock of N95 masks.

Unfortunately it is not a matter of purchasing the N95 masks as all hospitals have backorders in with manufacturers; there is not just enough supply to meet the growing need.

Similar to other hospital associations, the Illinois Hospital Association is making a plea to all residents and those that have connections to construction companies and closed dental offices, to bring the N95 masks to your local hospital. " We anticipate that the number of cases will increase dramatically in the coming days and weeks, exhausting all the PPE at hospitals, including gowns, gloves, eye shields and, especially, medical masks..... PPE is critical to protecting our frontline healthcare workforce from infection when testing and treating patients for COVID-19, keeping our dedicated physicians, nurses, technicians and others in our hospitals where they are needed most." For more info, click [Here](#)

Please reach out to your local construction companies and dental offices to make them aware of the need of their local hospital.

Long Term Care Facility (Nursing Home)/Congregate Care Assessment of COVID-19 Preparedness - Needed Now

As noted in our COVID-19 Newsletter Edition #1, nursing homes have many challenges in caring for residents that are often time in close quarters. While there are specific guidelines that have been given to nursing home administrators and staff, there have been gaps in consistent implementation of infection control and prevention. While Seattle had a high profile case, Illinois has also had a high impact COVID-19 break in infection prevention and control as have other nursing homes throughout the U.S.

The Illinois Department of Public Health is in need of focusing their staff resources to the nursing homes and congregate care (assisted living facilities) that are in need of education, training, and supplies. In particular, they are requesting that anyone that has a loved one in a nursing home, works at a nursing home, or is familiar with their local nursing home - please urge them to complete and submit the Survey to IDPH no later than March 27. Based upon responses to the survey, IDPH staff will assist the nursing homes most at risk to having a COVID-19 cluster outbreak due to not having the systems or PPE in place.

[IDPH's survey](#), similar to many states, covers the following COVID-19 related issues:

- Visitor restrictions
- Education, monitoring, and screening of Healthcare Personnel (HCP)
- Education, monitoring, and screening of Residents
- Availability of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other supplies
- Infection Prevention Practices:
 - Hand hygiene
 - Use of PPE
 - Cleaning and disinfection of environmental surfaces and resident care equipment



We Enjoy Hearing From You!

We are always happy to hear from you - please feel free to contact us at any time. During the COVID-19 pandemic, our staff will be working from home.

Contact Pat Merryweather-Arges:

Telephone: 630-202-5579

E-mail: pmerryweather@projectpatientcare.org

Thank you!