

**TO: County Board
Presidents/Executives/Chairpersons/Board
Members/Administrators**

**FROM: Joe McCoy, Executive Director
Illinois State Association of Counties**

DATE: May 13, 2020

RE: COVID-19 Update – May 13

The Illinois State Association of Counties (ISACo) continues to prioritize the dissemination of useful information to county leaders during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please find below information we would like to share with you today:

Illinois' COVID-19 Statistics

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is reporting a total of 84,698 cases, including 3,792 deaths, in 99 counties in Illinois.

Congressional House Democrats Unveil \$3 Trillion COVID-19 Relief Proposal

On Tuesday, May 12, 2020, Democrats in the United States House of Representatives officially released their plan to provide further financial relief to states, local governments, tribal governments and individuals affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. ISACo reviewed the proposal and identified key provisions for counties. ISACo's analysis is [available via this link](#).

General Assembly Reconvening Next Week

The Illinois House and Senate will reconvene next week for the first time since early March. Both chambers will return to Springfield for a special session beginning May 20, 2020, to address specific topics identified within a Joint Proclamation ([linked here](#)) issued on May 13, 2020. These topics are as follows:

- The COVID-19 pandemic or other disasters;
- The State budget and its implementation;
- Economic recovery, infrastructure projects and funding thereof;
- The explanation, arguments for and against, and the form for constitutional amendments as required under the Illinois Constitutional Amendment Act;
- Laws or authority scheduled to be repealed prior to June 1, 2021;
- The 2020 General Election and the State Board of Elections; and
- The hospital assessment program.

The House plans to convene at a convention center and the Senate will convene at the State Capitol Building. Appropriate social distance protocols will be followed.

ISACo Meets with Comptroller's Office

On Wednesday, May 13, 2020, I had a virtual meeting with the Illinois Comptroller's Office to discuss prioritizing local government revenue distributions as the state budget situation tightens. The initial impetus for the meeting was a letter I sent to the Comptroller's Office on March 25, 2020 ([available via this link](#)).

During our conversation, the Comptroller's staff conveyed that the process and timing of local revenue distributions will remain unchanged. They also offered that any counties facing an imminent hardship that can be alleviated by an expedited distribution of funds from the Comptroller's Office can work with the Comptroller's Office to triage the need. Counties that find themselves in this position are welcome to contact ISACo for assistance.

Furthermore, the Comptroller's Office informed me that they do not intend to penalize counties for filing financial reports beyond their due dates under the current circumstances.

ISACo is appreciative of the Comptroller's Office for their cooperation.

IDOR Local Revenue Distribution Report

The Illinois Department of Revenue has developed a report that will provide estimated monthly distribution amounts that local governments can expect to receive. These estimates are based on sales tax returns that have been filed, but not paid, because of the extension granted by the Governor (FY 2020-23). To request this information, contact the Local Tax Allocation Division at REV.LocalTax@illinois.gov, or by sending a message through your MyLocalTax Account.

Fast-Track Infrastructure Grants Available

On Wednesday, May 12, 2020, Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) announced Fast-Track Public Infrastructure Grants, an initiative to accelerate work on planned public infrastructure projects around the state. The State is expediting \$25 million of existing Rebuild Illinois funding to local public infrastructure projects that are ready to begin work this summer, as many local governments face lost revenues, impacting their ability to finance these projects. More information is [available via this link](#). Counties seeking to apply for the grants can do so [via this link](#). Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. Projects will be funded on a first come, first qualified, first serve basis. Applications will be accepted until Monday, June 15, 2020, or until funds have been exhausted.

Counties Waiving Penalties for Late Property Tax Payments

Several Illinois counties seeking to provide relief to local residents and businesses during the economic shutdown have approved ordinances waiving penalties for late property tax payments. These counties are acting on provisions in state law that vest county boards with the waiver authority. More information is [available via this link](#).

IDPH Offers Visual of Progress Toward Re-Opening Illinois

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has a visual on its website that shows the phase each of the state's four regions are in based upon metrics identified by the Governor as needing to be met before a region is permitted to advance through the five phases necessary to ease restrictions on re-opening various aspects of economic and social life. The website is [available via this link](#).

Local Governments No Longer Need to Adopt and File Prevailing Wage Ordinances

While not related to the pandemic, the Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL) issued a press release ([available via this link](#)) reminding local governments that they are no longer required to adopt a prevailing wage ordinance and file it with the Department. This does not relieve local governments from adhering to the prevailing wage, just the filing requirement. The filing requirement was removed by Public Act 100-1177 ([linked here](#)), which took effect June 1, 2019. IDOL now ascertains the prevailing wage rate for each county and publishes the rates on its website.

Hospitals Receive Additional Funding to Fight COVID-19

On Tuesday, May 12, 2020, the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) announced that Illinois hospitals have begun receiving \$75 million in new stability payments to help fight COVID-19. The funds will help hospitals continue to provide essential COVID-19 services to their communities in the coming weeks and months. More information is [available via this link](#).

IDHR Information for Businesses about Face Coverings

The Illinois Department of Human Rights (IDHR) has published an FAQ to provide guidance for businesses concerning the use of face coverings during the COVID-19 pandemic. The FAQ is [available via this link](#).

Keep Up with New Information!

ISACo has a designated blog post ([available via this link](#)) that includes updated news about the public response to COVID-19 and other relevant information.

ISACo also has a dedicated webpage ([available via this link](#)) with federal, state and local resources about COVID-19 and best practices to avoid transmission while promoting containment.

Please feel welcome to contact ISACo with any questions for which we may be helpful. My e-mail address is jmccoy@isacoil.org. I can also be reached on my cell phone at 217/836-9164. ISACo's website is www.isacoil.org. Thanks.