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

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

DATE:       March 18, 2020

RE:          Coronavirus Update -- March 18

On March 17, 2020, Governor Pritzker issued Executive Order 2020-08 – [linked here](#). The EO suspends expiration provisions of state law applicable to driver’s licenses, vehicle registrations, parking decals and other programs and services handled by the Secretary of State’s (SOS) office. The SOS offices are closed through Tuesday, March 31, 2020.

Unsurprisingly, Illinois General Assembly session days for the week of March 23-27 have been cancelled. The decision to resume legislative activity will be re-evaluated based upon evolving events. Key deadlines for advancing legislation will be moved to later dates on the calendar.

Federal Funding to Local Governments
The Illinois State Association of Counties (ISACo) has been in communication with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to inquire if the agency has developed a plan and timetable for releasing federal funds intended for local governments that will first pass through the agency. This funding is part of the $8.3 billion package approved by Congress and signed into law by President Trump (H.R. 6074 - [available via this link](#)). We will share this information as it becomes available.

FEMA Emergency Protective Measure Reimbursement
The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is directed to assist state, local, tribal, territorial governments and other eligible entities with the health and safety actions they take on behalf of the American public. Eligible emergency protective measures taken at the direction or guidance of public health officials in response to this emergency, and not supported by the authorities of another federal agency, will be reimbursed strictly under the FEMA Public Assistance program. FEMA assistance will be provided at a 75 percent Federal cost share. Reimbursable activities typically include emergency protective measures such as the activation of State Emergency Operations Centers, National Guard costs, law enforcement and other measures necessary to protect public health and safety. [Counties are encouraged to work directly with their local emergency management offices and through the State Emergency Management Agency for all requests for assistance](#).

Expanded Medicare Telehealth Coverage
The Trump Administration announced expanded Medicare telehealth coverage that will enable beneficiaries to receive a wider range of healthcare services from their doctors without having to travel to a healthcare facility. Beginning on March 6, 2020, Medicare administered by the
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)—will temporarily pay clinicians to provide telehealth services for beneficiaries residing across the entire country. Consistent with President Trump’s emergency declaration, CMS is expanding Medicare’s telehealth benefits under the 1135 waiver authority and the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act. This guidance and other recent actions by CMS provide regulatory flexibility to ensure that all Americans—particularly high-risk individuals—are aware of easy-to-use, accessible benefits that can help keep them healthy while helping to contain the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

**Overweight Truck Permit Fees Waived**
Governor JB Pritzker has waived overweight permit fees for trucks delivering emergency relief supplies. The press release is available via this link.

**Attorney General Fights Price Gouging**
On Tuesday, March 17, 2020, Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul issued a warning against price gouging and indicated his office is prepared to take action against unfair pricing with a primary focus on essential medical supplies, such as protective gear, and other items identified in the governor’s executive order. The press release is available via this link.

**National Guard Activated**
Governor Pritzker activated the National Guard to assist with logistical support and medical staffing. Story available via this link.

**Document Coronavirus Expenses**
Just a reminder to carefully document all expenses associated with your county’s Coronavirus response. The documentation will be extremely helpful when your county seeks funding reimbursements.

**Keep Up with New Information!**
ISACo has a designated blog post (available via this link) that includes updated news about the public response to the Coronavirus and other relevant information. This blog post is updated frequently as events evolve and new information becomes available. I would encourage you to bookmark the blog post and check in from time to time for relevant updates.

ISACo also has a dedicated webpage (available via this link) with federal, state and local resources about the Coronavirus 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. Thanks.