

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

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

DATE: May 8, 2020

RE: COVID-19 Update – May 8

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 73,760 cases, including 3,241 deaths, in 98 counties in Illinois.

ISACo Meets with Senate Working Group

On May 7, 2020, I met via conference call with the members of the Senate Local Government Working Group. ISACo was invited to discuss our advocacy requests with the legislators. Our specific requests were included in an April 9, 2020, letter ([available via this link](#)) we sent to working group members.

In addition to the issues outlined in the letter, I requested that the Open Meetings Act (OMA) be amended to allow for the occurrence of remote meetings during emergency situations and discussed an amendment to the property tax code to provide additional clarification that counties have permissive authority to waive penalties and fees for late property tax payments under specified circumstances.

ISACo had a similar meeting with the House Local Government Working Group on April 29, 2020. We appreciate both the House and Senate inviting ISACo to participate in meetings to discuss county issues.

Governor Pritzker Issues New Executive Orders

Governor JB Pritzker issued the following Executive Orders (EO) of relevance to counties.

Onsight Review/Investigations of Certain Facilities

On May 1, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order 2020-35 ([available via this link](#)) to suspend provisions in the Assisted Living and Shared Housing Act, the Nursing Home Care Act and the Community Care Act. For example, the EO suspends IDPH on-site reviews at each facility annually. IDPH will continue to conduct on-site reviews to the extent feasible. The EO suspends provisions regarding pest control, milk production, mobile homes, body piercing and speech language pathology.

Marriage Licenses

On May 1, 2020, the Governor issued EO 2020-36 ([available via this link](#)) concerning marriage licenses. To obtain a marriage license, couples may appear before the county clerk and conduct a marriage ceremony using two-way audio-video communication technology if certain conditions are met. The EO suspends the requirement that a fully executed marriage license must be submitted to the county clerk within 10 days and the requirement that a marriage license becomes effective one day after the date of issuance.

Webinar Discusses Available Federal Funding for Counties

In this previously recorded webinar hosted by the National Association of Counties (NACo), experts from Witt O'Brien's discuss the dozen federal funding streams available to local governments for COVID-19 aid, including which programs may be used to cover various costs, how they interact with CARES funding and how to prepare to apply for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursement. The free webinar can be [viewed via this link](#).

NACo Publishes Report Explaining COVID-19 Fiscal Impact on Counties

NACo prepared a research report analyzing the fiscal impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on counties. The report estimates an overall \$144 billion budgetary impact across all U.S. counties. An executive summary and the full report are [available via this link](#).

NACo is continuing to collect information from counties regarding fiscal impacts. Please complete the [5-minute survey accessible via this link](#) to add to NACo's knowledge database. This is important information to collect because it will strengthen advocacy efforts in support of additional federal funding to counties. Thanks.

CISA Releases Report on COVID-19 Disinformation

The federal Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) issued a new *CISA Insights* titled, "COVID-19 Disinformation Activity" ([available via this link](#)). This *CISA Insights* provides guidance to deter false information and conspiracy theories related to COVID-19. It provides factual information to counteract inaccurate claims and provides simple steps the public can take to fact check information and minimize the risk of spreading false or misleading content.

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.