



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Public Health Officials Announce 1,672 New Cases of Coronavirus Disease

Today, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced **1,173 new confirmed cases** of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Illinois. **Currently, IDPH is reporting a total of 22,025 cases including 794 deaths, in 87 counties in Illinois.** Cases by county can be found on the state's coronavirus [website at coronavirus.illinois.gov](http://coronavirus.illinois.gov).

During his daily press briefing today, **Governor JB Pritzker announced actions being taken to meet the overwhelming demand for unemployment claims being submitted through the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES)**. He announced that through the five weeks from March 1 to April 4, Illinois received 513,173 initial unemployment claims, which is greater than the total number of initial claims for the entirety of 2019 (489,831 claims). [The Governor's press release can be accessed via this link](#). Information about the [process once a claim is filed can be found via this link](#). IDES has also provided Unemployment Insurance Claim Filing [Frequently Asked Questions, which can be accessed via this link](#).

The Governor also announced a sweeping emergency expansion of the Illinois Workers' Compensation Act that was approved this morning by the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission. First responders and front line workers that are injured or suffer periods of incapacity from exposure to COVID-19 during a COVID-19 state of emergency will be entitled to rebuttable presumptions in contested hearings that the injury or incapacity arose out of and in the course of their employment, and were causally connected to the hazards or exposures of that employment. [Linked here is the emergency order](#). This decision will have significant consequences on all employers, including units of local government.

As a follow up to our previous correspondence with Comptroller Susana Mendoza, [see our most recent letter linked here](#), **IML staff had a conference call with the Comptroller's senior staff this afternoon and addressed several areas of concern.** It was agreed that the Comptroller's Office would be "flexible and generous" in requiring municipalities to file their **Annual Financial Reports and Tax Increment Financing Reports during and after this state of emergency**. It is expected that they will provide clarification and guidance on this topic in writing, upon which municipal officials will be able to rely. **We were also informed that local government pass-through funds will not be subject to delays in payment due to**

any possible rules implemented by the Comptroller's Office in the event of limited cash flow at the state level. The Comptroller's Office will process all local government payments as they are presented by the various state agencies responsible for the actual payment transfers. We appreciate the understanding and cooperation on these and other issues that were raised by IML during the positive discussion.

While the Illinois General Assembly is not holding its regularly scheduled session, **both the House of Representatives and the Senate have announced working groups that will meet virtually to address issues needing action this spring.** It is unclear when either chamber will reconvene in person, although it is certain that will not be until after the Governor's Stay at Home Order has been lifted. In the meanwhile and to the best of our current understanding, the working groups will be discussing issues informally and gathering information to submit through the normal committee process upon their return. This will theoretically allow for faster action in committees and subsequent consideration by the full House and Senate once they return to the Capitol. **The Illinois Municipal League (IML) has offered its assistance to each of the working groups and we have shared municipal issues and requests with all members of the General Assembly, [in a letter available via this link](#).**

The Governor's Office is continually updating their COVID-19 resources. [Linked here is the most recent edition of their Daily COVID-19 FAQs.](#) To assist their efforts, the Governor's Office is collecting and responding to questions regarding the state's response to the COVID-19 outbreak. They have created an email address, Gov.COVID19stakeholder@illinois.gov, where citizens may send questions, comments and recommendations. The Governor's staff compiles all inquiries and responds with answers. Linked here is the Daily COVID-19 FAQ's from over the weekend, which is also posted on our COVID-19 website: [Governor's Office Daily COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions](#) (April 10, 2020).

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) recently announced a new text message program, allowing people to text "COVID" to 312-500-3836, in order to register to receive current information and updates about COVID-19. The Department also has a telephone hotline to take health questions about COVID-19; residents may call the hotline at 800-889-3931 or email questions to: dph.sick@illinois.gov. Be reminded that individuals and businesses are also encouraged to make donations of personal protective equipment (PPE). If you are able to make PPE donations, please contact IDPH by email at: PPE.donations@illinois.gov.

As a reminder, Governor Pritzker's office is holding conference calls twice a week with federal, state and local officials regarding their efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19. These calls will be held on Tuesdays and Fridays from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The call-in information for the **Tuesday, April 14, 4:00 p.m.** conference call is below:

- Phone Number: (312) 535-8110
- Access Code: 288 360 973 #

IML is posting all of this information and more on our COVID-19 resources page [available at iml.org/covid](#).

The State of Illinois' central website for COVID-19 is [available at coronavirus.illinois.gov](https://coronavirus.illinois.gov).

The Illinois Municipal League will continue to distribute timely, reliable and pertinent information as it becomes available. **Please feel welcome to share these messages with municipal officials and others in your community.** As always, thank you for your dedication to your community. Please feel welcome to contact me at any time, for any reason. Thanks.

BRAD COLE | Executive Director

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