

ORDER OF THE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO
No. 2020-2

(DUTIES OF HOSPITALS AND OTHER CONGREGATE FACILITIES)

Issued and Effective: March 19, 2020

WHEREAS, The Municipal Code of Chicago (“Code”) authorizes the Commissioner of Health of the City of Chicago to implement emergency measures to stop the spread of communicable diseases, and to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the City’s residents, including but not limited to authority granted in Sections 2-112-030, 2-112-080, 2-112-160(a)(4), and 2-112-170 of the Code, and 77 Ill. Adm. Code 690.1310(c); and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a communicable disease that presents an extraordinarily severe and unprecedented threat to the residents of Chicago. It is necessary and appropriate for the Commissioner of Health to take immediate measures to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the City’s residents; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago Department of Public Health (“CDPH”) is a public authority authorized pursuant to Section 2-112-160(a)(7) to request, collect, receive and maintain confidential information, records and data, including protected health information (“PHI”) consistent with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (“HIPAA”) Privacy Standards set forth in 45 C.F.R. §164.512(b)(1)(i), for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease; now, therefore,

The Commissioner of Health of the City of Chicago hereby orders as follows:

SECTION 1. All acute care and long-term hospitals located within the City shall immediately: (1) adopt and implement administrative and personal protective equipment (“PPE”) control policies to reduce potential transmission of COVID-19 and to help conserve PPE, including but not limited to gowns, masks, gloves, goggles, or other garments or equipment needed to protect the wearer’s body from infection or other health or safety risks associated with the COVID-19 virus; (2) postpone elective surgeries and medical procedures; (3) implement a strict visitor policy in hospitals and clinics with exceptions for circumstances where having no companion may have long-term negative health implications for the patients. This includes circumstances involving pediatric and neonatal patients; laboring mothers; compassionate, pastoral, and end of life situations; and necessary transportation; (4) implement a policy to limit entry into patient rooms of COVID-19 patients to essential healthcare workers only, with the exception of companions detailed in item (3) above; and (5) implement a policy to check employees for symptoms of COVID-19 at the start and end of each shift.

SECTION 2. All acute care hospitals located within the City shall submit daily reports to CDPH, via an online protocol established by CDPH, reporting CDPH-defined COVID-related patient data, e.g. daily counts of COVID-19-related intensive care unit (“ICU”) admissions; COVID-19 patients receiving mechanical ventilation; and COVID-19-related deaths that occurred at the hospital during the preceding 24 hours.

