MEMO

**TO:** PA Health Care Coalition Members – Acute Care Partners

**FROM:** Bureau of Emergency Preparedness & Response, HPP Section

**DATE:** 20 August 2024

**RE:** Hospital Data Reporting – Upcoming Implementation of CMS Rule – Effective 1 November 2024

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have recently published a final rule concerning mandatory hospital respiratory data reporting, as communicated through our Health Care Coalition (HCC) initiative. Further details on the final rule can be accessed here CMS Rule.

Concurrently, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) through the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) has initiated the rollout of a new federal reporting system. NHSN is conducting informational webinars to introduce the process, which mirrors aspects of COVID-19 data reporting with some modifications. A comprehensive data dictionary and details on data elements are currently under development and will be disseminated well in advance of the data reporting mandate. The reporting frequency is weekly for all types of facilities, standardizing the process across the board.

The data elements encompass 48 mandatory data elements and 10 options elements across several critical categories. Required elements include Capacity and Occupancy, Hospitalized patients with lab-confirmed COVID-19, Influenza, and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), and New admissions of patients with lab-confirmed COVID-19, Influenza, and RSV; optional data fields include Hospital personal protective equipment (PPE) and supply information.  Among the mandatory fields, 24 must be reported every Wednesday, 21 every Tuesday (reflecting data from the prior Sunday to Saturday period), and 3 providing essential information such as NHSN ID, reporting period date, and weekending date.

Facilities have the option for the Department of Health (Department) to facilitate reporting on their behalf, and the Bureau of Emergency Preparedness and Response would **strongly** encourage facilities to utilize this reporting pathway. Doing so enhances situational awareness and preparedness efforts to allow the Department and HCCs to better support the healthcare sector if necessary. This will be the identical process used for COVID-19 data reporting previously. The Health Incident Management System (HIMS) EMResource module will be configured to receive the mandatory data elements daily, with subsequent data transmission to NHSN each evening. More information on how the current HIMS platform can be used to collect and transmit this data will be forthcoming.

As additional details regarding the required data elements, data dictionary, and associated processes unfold, the Department will promptly disseminate relevant information to stakeholders. Should any queries arise regarding reporting obligations, please direct them to your HCC Regional Manager at ra-dhHCC-Ops@pa.gov  or contact Paul Hoffman, HPP Program Manager, at pfhoffman@pa.gov until further updates are available.