

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2020

Governor JB Pritzker
Office of the Governor
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Governor Pritzker:

We write today regarding action the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) can take to alleviate capacity issues facing our healthcare providers. As COVID-19 spreads, it is vital these facilities have maximum flexibility to adapt to their needs.

We ask that IDPH grant healthcare providers the ability to transfer patients colonized with Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) out of isolation rooms. While we recognize the seriousness of MRSA, studies have shown that colonized patients are far less contagious than individuals with an active infection. In fact, other states regularly allow for the treatment of colonized patients outside of such settings.

According to HSHS St. John's Hospital in Springfield, Illinois, if IDPH grants this authority it will reduce its usage rate of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) by 40%. By freeing up this equipment for use against COVID-19, we can relieve stress from the Centers for Disease Control's Strategic National Stockpile.

Additionally, we request regular updates from IDPH on PPE distribution throughout the state to ensure these supplies are reaching all communities.

Now more than ever, we need these rooms and supplies to isolate and treat patients infected with COVID-19. We appreciate your attention to this request as we work to ensure healthcare providers have the capacity to address this virus.

Sincerely,



RODNEY DAVIS
Member of Congress



JOHN SHIMKUS ^{M.C.}
Member of Congress



ADAM KINZINGER
Member of Congress



DARIN LAHOOD
Member of Congress



MIKE BOST
Member of Congress



BOBBY L. RUSH
Member of Congress