Good afternoon,

I wanted to provide you with the latest information regarding COVID-19.

- Yesterday, Gov. John Bel Edwards declared a formal state of emergency for Louisiana.

- In order to maintain situational awareness of the state’s healthcare system, LDH has triggered daily mandatory hospital bed poll reporting starting Friday, March 13 by 10 a.m. and continuing each day until further notice. If you need assistance with completing a bed poll, contact your DRC, or send an email to esf8help@la.gov.

- We have updated our website to include a Pandemic Influenza Plan and Crisis Standards of Care Guidelines for Hospitals, which are two resources that are maintained and published by state emergency health leadership.

- In addition, we wanted to make you aware of the following LHA resources regarding HIPAA and the Media:
  - Overview for the MEDIA: Patient Privacy Protections Under HIPAA
  - Overview for HOSPITALS: Patient Privacy Protections Under HIPAA

These and other local, state and national hospital-specific resources and guidance from trusted sources can be located on the LHA’s COVID-19 webpage. We will continue to monitor developments and update resources as necessary.

Note: This Alert is being distributed to hospital C-Suite personnel in the LHA database.