

**RESOLUTION 12.2020-23 (A-21)  
USING A VULNERABILITY INDEX TO INCREASE RESOURCES IN  
ILLINOIS COUNTIES DURING A PANDEMIC**

**ISMS Board Action Taken on 10/16/2021**

**Adopted Substitute Resolution 12.2020-23 (A-21) in lieu of Resolution 12.2020-23 (A-21), as recommended by the Council on Medical Service.**

Council on Medical Service Recommendation to ISMS Board on 10/16/2021

The Council previously recommended adoption of this resolution in December 2020; however, the Board referred this back to the Council for additional consideration. The Council reviewed additional information on various existing vulnerability indexes, including those produced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the American Medical Association (AMA), some of which were not available to the authors at the time of their submission of this resolution. The Council also expressed their preference that ISMS policy encourage the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and local communities to use vulnerability indexes that are designed specifically to assess vulnerability for this pandemic. Additionally, the Council expressed a desire that any vulnerability indexes used for resource evaluation and allotment in Illinois include readily available metrics that will assess whether existing community interventions regarding COVID-19 are effective in mitigating the negative effects of COVID-19.

The Council on Medical Service recommends that the ISMS Board of Trustees adopt Substitute Resolution 12.2020-23 (A-21) in lieu of Resolution 12.2020-23 (A-21).

RESOLVED, that our ISMS encourage the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and local communities to use vulnerability indexes specifically developed or modified to help communities understand vulnerability as it relates specifically to the COVID-19 pandemic; and be it further

RESOLVED, that our ISMS encourage the IDPH to establish metrics to assess whether COVID-19 interventions initiated as a result of high vulnerability index scores are effective in mitigating the negative effects of COVID-19 on vulnerable communities, and to make these metrics publicly available; and be it further

36 RESOLVED, that our ISMS encourage efforts to prioritize the distribution of  
37 resources designed to address the COVID-19 pandemic consistent with high scores on  
38 vulnerability indexes that are specifically developed or modified to reflect the unique  
39 trajectory of the COVID-19 pandemic.  
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42 **ISMS Board Action Taken on 01/30/2021**

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44 **Referred Resolution 12.2020-23 (A-21) back to the Council on Medical Service for**  
45 **further consideration.**  
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49 Council on Medical Service Recommendation to ISMS Board on 01/30/2021  
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51 The authors of the resolution told the Council that their proposed vulnerability index  
52 was intended to address the unique aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic: its disparate  
53 impact on black and Latino communities, and the non-linear, non-parametric course of  
54 the COVID-19 pandemic. The authors argued that such an index, using epidemiological  
55 data gathered daily from counties, would be more appropriate for predicting the impact  
56 of epidemics than the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Social  
57 Vulnerability Index (SVI), which is currently in use. According to the authors, the SVI  
58 is more appropriate for predicting what resources will be needed to respond to disasters.  
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60 Council members believe that the principles behind this resolution are good, but had  
61 some concerns about whether there would be enough funding for a new index when  
62 existing indexes already exist. Council members also believe that it is important that any  
63 index be responsive to the unique needs of rural communities, as well as to other  
64 communities.  
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66 The Council believes that the resolution would lead to better preparedness for future  
67 pandemics, and to more appropriate allocation of resources of resources for mitigating  
68 and preparing for pandemics in the future. It therefore recommends that the Board adopt  
69 the resolution.  
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71 The Council on Medical Service recommends that the ISMS Board of Trustees adopt  
72 Resolution 12.2020-23 (A-21).