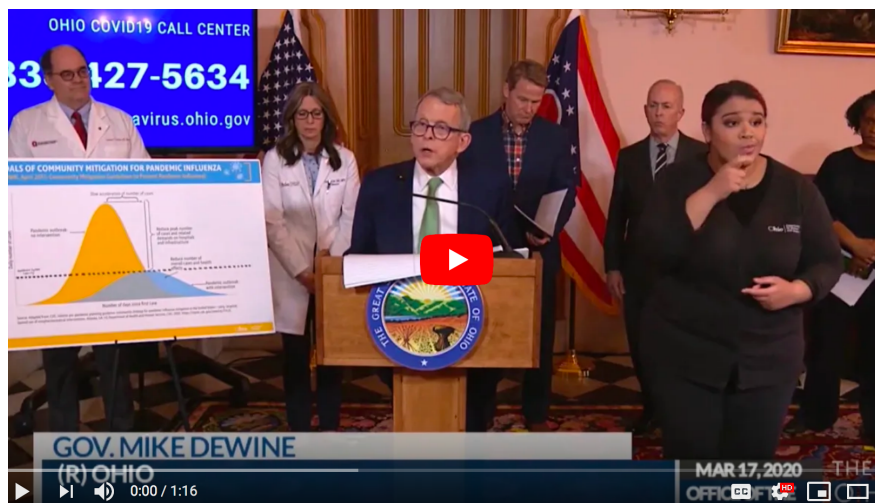


OPRA MEMBER UPDATE

MARCH 17, 2020

Governor DeWine thanks DSPs as Ohio rolls out further regulations:

At the start of their daily press briefing, Governor DeWine praised the work being done by Direct Support Professionals throughout Ohio. Dr. Amy Acton went on to confirm 67 cases of coronavirus in Ohio and announced the postponement of elective surgeries. To view the press conference or read more about the latest action taken by the State of Ohio, click [here](#).



Day and Vocational Services

Considering the nature of the circumstances, we understand that many day and vocational service providers have chosen to suspend programming this week, and we expect the state will mandate the closure of center-based services very soon. We have been working closely with DODD and system partners, as well as researching the actions of other states, to help ensure agency and system sustainability while maintaining services to those in need. We are incredibly appreciative to all of our members who have shared their plans and sample policies to support one another.

We plan to have much more information on the immediate future for day and vocational services on tomorrow's member call. To read about efforts made by the state to relax rules, increase flexibility and sustain services, click [here](#).

Earlier in the day, Pete sent an email to members containing a sample agreement for shared services developed by our partners at Vorys. While we know the shared services/contracting may not be a viable model for all, we hope the sample template (attached also to this email) will help members and other providers looking to share resources and work collaboratively during this time.



OPRA MEMBER UPDATE

MARCH 15, 2020

OPRA Launches New Website featuring Covid-19 Resources

On Monday afternoon, OPRA launched the new www.opra.org. We have dedicated 'news sections' for Federal and State resources, informational links, as well as sample documents, communication templates and policies that have been shared with us over the past few weeks regarding Covid-19. We have been able to capture much of what has already been shared through our listservs in one central location, hopefully making it easy for you to access these resources. Considering the large volume of resources that have been shared with us, we are still working with our web developer to transition all of the documents to the new site. If you have any policies, templates, or documents you'd like to share, please send them to Christine at Ctouvelle@opra.org. Also please visit the Covid-19 [discussion section](#) to pose a question or comment to the membership.

DODD Suspends Assessments for ICFs

Per DODD memo; "As the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) responds to coronavirus (COVID-19), the department has suspended Ohio Developmental Disabilities Profile (ODDP) assessments for intermediate care facilities (ICFs) until further notice. If an ICF is unable to certify due to a person missing an assessment, DODD will complete the certification on behalf of the ICF, excluding the person missing an ODDP assessment." To read the entire memo, click [here](#).

ODJFS Provides Common Number to Speed Processing of COVID-19-Related Unemployment Benefits

Earlier today, ODJFS released guidance for processing for employees who lose their employment as a result of the pandemic. Per the announcement "The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) is instructing Ohio employers planning layoffs or shutdowns as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic to share the following mass lay-off number with their employees to speed the processing of unemployment benefits: 2000180. The agency also is providing instructions for employers to share with their employees about how to apply for benefits." To read the release and instructions for application, click [here](#).

