

OPRA MEMBER UPDATE

MARCH 23, 2020

Day Service Closures Announced

During Saturday's press briefing, the Governor's office issued an executive order, mandating the closure of day and vocational service centers. The order will go into effect Tuesday evening and will pertain to service centers providing services in 'congregate settings' where more than 10 or more people gather. Adult/Vocational services may still be provided in;

- Settings of 10 or less people, including staff.
- Areas of a facility that have their own dedicated entrance/exit, restrooms and staff
- Buildings where other administrative, clerical, cleaning or off-shift DSPs are working, separate from the group of 10 or less.
- In someone's home, or appropriate community setting, adhering to "Stay at home" order and other social distancing/health and safety requirements.

To read the order on the closing of day services in congregate settings, click [here](#).

To read DODD's FAQ document regarding the Closures, click [here](#).

Please contact Scott at smarks@opra.org with any questions or feedback.

DODD Updates:

With so many changes and memos coming from DODD this week, we have attempted to compile all of the week's updates here below. Contained are information about relaxed processes, billing concessions and other steps taken by DODD to support the system.

[What Ohio's Stay-at-Home Order Means for Ohio's Developmental Disabilities System](#)

[Guidance: Certification Span Extensions for Upcoming Renewals](#)

[OSSAS Suspends Scheduled Compliance Reviews, Regulatory Work](#)

[Guidance: Home Waiver Settings](#)

[Guidance: Day Support Service Options](#)

[DODD's Statewide Support Teams Available for COVID-19 Response](#)

[Guidance: Providers of Waiver-Funded Services](#)

[Guidance for ICFs Regarding COVID-19](#)

[COVID-19: Updates for ICFs](#)

[Guidance: Rule Relief for Medication Administration Certification Renewals](#)

[Latest DODD Guidance and Resources](#)



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ODH Issues Stay-at-Home Order

On Sunday, Dr. Amy Acton, ODH Director, issued a statewide 'stay at home' order, enforceable by local law enforcement as well as ODH, puts a ban on non-essential business and activity in order to slow the spread of Covid-19. This action is the culmination of the several executive order issued over the last week and should be the final order from the Governor's office mandating social distancing.

Businesses such as grocery stores, hospitals and health centers, gas stations, hardware suppliers will all be able to stay in operation as 'essential'. The mandate goes onto recognize services provided under the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities as being essential, including residential, medical and day array services.

Earlier today, Pete sent a template letter for staff to use in case they are stopped by law enforcement for documentation of their essential role.

The full executive order can be read [here](#).

A FAQ developed by ODH in relation to the order can be read [here](#).

The press conference also included the mandated closure of daycare facilities, with the exception of Pandemic Daycare Centers, as well as several measures being enacted to support small businesses impacted.

More information about and How to apply to be a Pandemic Daycare Center is available [here](#).

More information on small business relief efforts can be found [here](#).

Preparing for Covid-19

On Friday, DODD released guidance for group homes, ICF and individual residences, outlining health and safety for protocol in the event that someone has tested positive or is suspected of having a Covid-19 infection.

That guidance can be found [here](#).

While the guidance is necessary and appreciated, OPRA has consulted with members and are working with DODD and state partners on further information to help prepare for a potential infection/outbreak of Covid-19 at a provider agency site.



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CARES Act

Congress is currently debating a third phase package of Corona Virus relief, known as the [CARES](#) Act. This legislation is intended to provide more robust support to people and businesses financially impacted by Covid-19.

As introduced, provisions in the bill include;

- Small Business Administration low interest express loans, which are expected to have a 36-hour turnaround, would be increased to \$1 million through the end of 2020.
- Student loan payments would be temporarily suspended.
- Employer Payroll Taxes and Corporate Tax Payments could be delayed.
- Emergency leave programs established under the second corona virus package, including expanding the Labor Department's authority to exempt businesses with fewer than 50 workers from paid leave requirements, would be modified.
- Rebates of as much as \$1,200 for individual tax filers or \$2,400 for couples who file joint tax returns would be dispensed based on income.
- Extending the tax filing deadline for the 2019 tax year to July 15 from April 15. The deadline for any individual installment payments would be delayed until Oct. 15, 2020.
- Allowing individuals to withdraw as much as \$100,000 from their retirement accounts, without penalty, through the end of 2020.

The bill also includes the Isaiah Baker and Margie Harris-Austin Act, which would allow for DSPs to provide reimbursable services when serving individuals in the hospital.

Earlier today, OPRA contacted several Senators to ensure that Medicaid-funded non-profits are included in the relief in this bill, as well as providing a template for members to advocate on this issue.

For more information, please contact Christine at Ctouvelle@opra.org

