

OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

OCTOBER 23, 2020

Vaccination Plan: Earlier this week, Governor DeWine shared Ohio's draft plan for a rollout of vaccines currently in development. The 4-phase plan lays out a framework for delivering the vaccine to priority populations, including high risk healthcare workers, first responders, vulnerable populations in congregate care and essential workers in health care. While phase 2 includes "people living in group homes for people with disabilities", we are seeking further clarification on what phase DSPs and people in other living arrangements or with other comorbidities/health issues will be prioritized. [Click here to read the draft vaccination plan.](#)

Core Committee: A sub-committee of system representatives met twice this week to discuss a transitional rate structure for day & vocational services in 2021, after the statewide uniform acuity C rate is ended. Although there were positive discussions, no agreement was reached between system partners on a rate model for January. OPRA continues to advocate for a fair reimbursement model that will sustain adult & vocational providers through the resurgence of COVID-19 to provide safe, meaningful small-group services. Please contact Scott at smarks@opra.org for more information.

Senate Letter: Last week, US Senators Warren, Murray and Hassan sent a letter to CMS urging them to enhance reporting requirements for congregate settings, specifically referencing ICFs. While this letter does not create any policies or mandatory practices, and at this point we have no indication that CMS will act on this request, we will be working with our federal partners to closely monitor any developments on reporting requirements. [To read the letter, click here.](#)

HHS Provider Relief Fund- The third phase of the provider relief fund is still open until November 6th. Yesterday, HHS announced they were expanding eligibility for the funds. [You can read the announcement here.](#) With a bigger pool of eligible providers, it could potentially decrease the amount of money available for the add-on beyond the initial 2% of patient care distribution. Additionally, HHS announced that they were changing some of the reporting requirements and the definition of lost revenue. [You can view the changes to the reporting requirements here.](#) Please reach out to Christine at Ctouvelle@opra.org with any questions you may have.

Telehealth Expansion: The Ohio Department of Medicaid has been working on formally adopting rules to make the pandemic-related expansions that we saw around telehealth be permanent. The changes to the law passed through the Ohio General Assembly's Joint Committee on Rule Review (JCARR) this week, which is one of the final steps of approval. [You can read the proposed rule here.](#)

ICF Relief Fund- Regarding The Coronavirus Relief Fund made available to ICFs by the Ohio Controlling Board through CARES act funding, the application for these funds are still open but are scheduled to close soon. [If you have not applied yet, you can do so here.](#) Scroll down to the CARES Act - Coronavirus Relief Fund – Provider Relief Payments option. If you have any questions, please reach out to Christine at Ctouvelle@opra.org.



In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

Memo Monday: The Department's weekly roundup of memos included a new episode of Dr Laura's Medical Moment (see below), information on becoming a Charting the Life Course Ambassador, the rate add-on for MSY supports, ICF bed hold day requests, and the Social Security Administration's 2021 Cost of Living adjustment. [To read memo monday, click here.](#)



Click the video to watch the "Medical Moment with Dr. Laura, where DODD's Medical Director, Dr. Laura Sorg speak about the importance of wearing masks.

Funding Chart: A few weeks back, Christine shared a funding chart, outlining all of the different funding/relief opportunities made available during the pandemic, as well as the different eligibility requirements, reporting requirements, forgiveness options and key dates associated with each. [Click here to download OPRA's funding chart.](#)

Virtual Employment Summit: In recognition of National Disability Awareness Month, The Employment Collaborative of Summit County will be holding a virtual employment summit this Tuesday, 10/27 from 9am-12:45 pm. Speakers include Director Davis, Stacy Collins, and Justin Blumhorst. [Click here to learn more and register!](#)

Upcoming Events

[10/28 & 29: OPRA Virtual Fall Conference.](#)

News and Resources

["38 Ohio counties now level 3 under coronavirus advisory map"](#)

["Meijer Receives Gold Award for Disability Inclusion from State of Ohio"](#)

["DS: Day Programs Struggle To Stay Open"](#)

[OPRA COVID-19 Toolkit](#)



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The Department provides the following weekly MUI updates based on COVID-19 related unanticipated hospitalizations and/or deaths entered into the Incident Tracking System. This data is not all inclusive. It does not include information about people who were suspected of having COVID-19 but not hospitalized, those who tested positive but were not hospitalized, people living with their families who were hospitalized when there was no provider present at time of hospitalization and COVID tested. For additional information and guidance, please visit [DODD COVID-19 Resources](#).

This report was revised on August 21, 2020 so that each person is only counted one time. If a person was hospitalized and tested multiple times, there would only be one entry for that person, and it would be updated to reflect the most current information. As a result of removing any additional testing results for the same person, there was a slight decrease in the overall number of test results.

As of October 22, 2020:

COVID-19 Testing Results for Reportable MUIs			
Negative	Pending	Positive	Total
563	1	295	859

- 295 people served have tested positive for COVID-19 and been hospitalized. This is an increase of 14 additional positives since the 10/15 report.
- 55 people served have passed away who have tested positive for COVID-19. There was 1 additional confirmed death since the 10/15 report.
- There were 846 people hospitalized and tested for COVID-19, which resulted in a MUI filing. This is an increase of 34 since the 10/15 report.
- A total of 859 COVID-19 reportable MUIs were filed as 13 individuals were never hospitalized but it was later determined their cause of death was COVID-19.

Impacted Counties/Developmental Centers

- There are 70 counties and 4 developmental centers with COVID related MUIs (CADC, CDC, GDC and NODC).
- Franklin had the most people hospitalized and tested with 125 followed by Cuyahoga with 120.
- Cuyahoga county had the most people who have tested positive with 49 followed by Franklin with 41.

Demographics:

- Males accounted for 59% of those tested and females 41%.
- Ages of people tested ranged from 1 to 91 years. The average age was 53 years. The most common age was 63 years.
- The breakdown of people tested by race include:
- Black or African American-16% (35% positive testing rate)
- Other Race -2% (53% positive testing rate)
- Unknown-5% (46% positive testing rate)
- White/Caucasian 77% (34% positive testing rate)

COVID-19 Deaths:

- The mortality rate of those passing from COVID-19 (55) and the total people served (94,890) is .057.
- The average age of the person who died was 63 years old.
- A total of 24 counties and 1 DC have reported COVID-19 deaths

COVID Related Deaths:

Arrangement	Count
Correctional Facility	1
Family	1
ICF	19
Licensed Waiver	8
Nursing Facility	8
Supported Living	18
Grand Total	55

County or DC	Count
Allen	1
Belmont	1
Butler	1
Clark	1
Cuyahoga	6
Franklin	5
Hamilton	4
Lake	1
Lucas	9
Mahoning	1
Miami	1
Montgomery	4
Muskingum	1
NODC	4
Ottawa	2
Perry	1
Preble	1
Richland	1
Scioto	1
Stark	1
Summit	2
Tuscarawas	1
Warren	1
Wayne	3
Wood	1
Grand Total (24 Counties and 1 DC)	55

