

OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

DECEMBER 4, 2020

Updated Covid Incident Guidance: Earlier this week, DODD released updated guidance regarding when an incident has to be filed in different Covid-related situations. The updated guidance clarifies that an incident report is not required for any in-facility testing, regardless of the result. The guidance goes on to clarify that providers are not required to report an unanticipated hospitalization MUI in instances when no provider was present at the time of hospitalization. We hope this updated guidance simplifies the process for Covid-19 reporting. [To read the updated guidance, click here.](#)

Provider Certification Rules: We have continued our advocacy regarding proposed upcoming changes to the Provider Certification rule. We believe the rules' implementation will likely now be delayed until July 2021, as we continue to work with partners to make sure the rules are achieving their intended purposes of ensuring quality supports from new and recently certified providers while alleviating re-certification burdens on providers 'in good standing' with DODD. While we are advocating for the rules' delay, its implementation is a priority for DODD, so it is critical that issues in the proposed rule are addressed before it can go forward. [Click here to review the proposed rules and crosswalk.](#)

Federal Relief Talks: It appears there may be movement on additional Covid relief, although it will likely be a much smaller effort than bills previously proposed. Discussions have centered around an extension of the Paycheck Protection Program, yet is unclear what that may look like, especially for those who have already accessed PPP funds. Given that the federal government runs out of money next week and congress will have to pass something to avoid a shut down, it looks increasingly likely that the additional Covid relief will be attached to the budget. Whether or not this could be the last covid relief effort really remains to be seen. Pete and Christine met with Senator portmans office this week and reiterated the need for assistance through an extended federal Medicaid match, additional targeted relief for providers, a second round of PPP, and flexibility for states to use remaining CARES act relief. Portman is part of the growing bipartisan effort to get another relief package together.

Day Array Committee: Thank you to everyone who attended yesterday's Day Array Committee meeting. In addition to hosting our guests, we discussed the several pressing topics for adult & vocational providers including the possible delay of the Blueprint workgroup until after the new year, strategies for addressing current challenges and the transition away from statewide acuity C billing in the new year. Minutes from the meeting will be posted to the committee's page on the OPRA website next week. [Click here to read DODD's announcement regarding the payment structure for adult & vocational services in the January 2021.](#)

Indoor Air Quality Assistance Program: [BWC announced a funding opportunity for 'reimbursement for eligible applicants](#) to help cover the costs of inspections, assessments, maintenance, and improvements to indoor heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems to control the spread of COVID-19.' As discussed on this morning's call, the eligibility specifically refers to 'adult day providers with approved DODD provider assurance forms', but we are seeking clarification whether facilities like ICFs may be eligible, as nursing homes and assisted living facilities are.



In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

Memo Monday: This week's roundup of memos contained included an update on the rollout of the statewide ISP in spring of 2021, an update on the ICF MSY program, and a link to Dr. Sorg's 'Well Aware' series. [To read Memo Monday, click here.](#)

C3PO: OPRA continues its collaboration with OADSP on the C3PO project, which connects high school students to DSP internship opportunities. In this unconventional year, we are looking for providers of virtual services (likely through STEP) who may be interested in 'adopting an intern' in the new year. Please reach out to Scott at smarks@opra.org if you are interested in adopting an intern in the new year. [To learn more about C3PO, click here.](#)

Vorys Webinar: Our partners at Vorys are hosting another 'Vorys on call: Return To Work' webinars next week. Christine shared registration information earlier in the week or you can [click here for more information and to register.](#)

Scam Info: There has been some recent reporting on email scams around Covid vaccines and texting scams around contact tracing. It is really important that you, your staff, and the people you support know how to spot these fake efforts to steal your information. [The Federal Trade Commission put together this guide on how to spot phishing scams.](#)

OPRA Training Announcement: [Click here to register for the annual CEO training](#) featuring speakers Kelly Ferenbaugh-DODD, Scott Phillips-DODD and Tom Rich-Anne Grady Ambassador. This training workshop, held December 9th from 10:30am-1:30pm, will cover the necessary yearly training topics for CEOs.



Upcoming Events

[12/9: OPRA Training Workshop: CEO Training](#)

[12/10: OPRA Holiday PAC Event](#)

News and Resources

["Franklin County drops to red, 8 counties now purple in Ohio's latest coronavirus advisory map"](#)

["Republican Ohio Gov. DeWine faces impeachment calls from GOP rebels over Covid restrictions"](#)

["Pandemic Helpline Launches For People With IDD, Caregivers"](#)

[OPRA COVID-19 Resources](#)



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Below is updated MUI data from DODD, presenting the impact of Covid-19 on people with developmental disabilities in Ohio. The data is based on those who had unanticipated hospitalizations due to Covid-19 and is not all-inclusive as to the impact of Covid-19 on Ohioans with disabilities.

As of December 4, 2020:

COVID-19 Testing Results for Reportable MUIs			
Negative	Pending	Positive	Total
646	15	528	1,189

- 528 people served have tested positive for COVID-19 and been hospitalized. This is an increase of 75 additional positives since the 11/27 report.
- 70 people served have passed away who have tested positive for COVID-19. There were 4 additional confirmed deaths since the 11/27 report.
- There were 1,168 people hospitalized and tested for COVID-19, which resulted in a MUI filing. This is an increase of 87 since the 11/27 report.
- A total of 1,189 COVID-19 reportable MUIs were filed as 21 individuals were never hospitalized but it was later determined their cause of death was COVID-19.

Impacted Counties/Developmental Centers:

- There are 75 counties and 6 developmental centers with COVID related MUIs (CADC, CDC, GDC, TDC, WDC and NODC).
- Franklin had the most people hospitalized and tested with 161 followed by Cuyahoga with 159.
- Cuyahoga had 76 people who tested positive and Franklin had 66.

Testing Demographics:

- Males accounted for 61% of those tested and females 39%.
- Ages of people tested ranged from 1 to 95 years. The average age was 53 years. The most common age was 61 years.
- The breakdown of people tested by race is:
 - Black or African American-15% (47% positive testing rate)
 - Other Race -2% (54% positive testing rate)
 - Unknown-5% (45% positive testing rate)
 - White/Caucasian 78% (44% positive testing rate)

COVID-19 Deaths:

- [The mortality rate of those passing from COVID-19 \(70\) and the total people served \(94,890\) is .073.](#)
- The ages of those who passed away range from 20-89 years of age.
- The average age of the person who died was 62 years old.
- A total of 29 counties and 1 DC have reported COVID-19 deaths.

Living Arrangement/COVID Deaths	Count
Correctional Facility	1
Family	4
ICF	20
Licensed Waiver	10
Nursing Facility	10
Supported Living	25
Grand Total	70

