

OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

DECEMBER 11, 2020

Vaccine Plan: The plans for the distribution of a Covid-19 vaccine are developing rapidly, with changes and updates coming seemingly by the hour. This morning it appears that the FDA is on track to approve the Pfizer/BioNTech Vaccine after it cleared a key panel yesterday. That news, along with Governor DeWine's announcement that people with disabilities who live in a congregate setting (currently defined as where 2 or more people live) and their direct support staff will be eligible for phase 1A of the vaccine. While we are extremely grateful to be included in this first phase, this news also brings an avalanche of logistical and other challenges, including how/where to access the vaccine and whether or not to mandate it, among many others. We are working with Raivo Murnieks of DODD and county board partners to help determine how many people supported by and working for the providers will require the vaccine. We are also working with our system partners to develop more resources and guidance on this topic, but advise members to seek their own legal counsel when making important decisions about mandating/requiring the vaccine. If you receive an email from a pharmacy, such as CVS, please read it carefully as it may contain important news about registering for the vaccine. [Click here for the latest guidance from DODD on the vaccine rollout plan.](#) [Click here to take OPRA's 3-questions survey on how many of your staff and individuals plan to be vaccinated.](#) (Please try, if possible, to limit to 1 response per agency)

Federal Relief Talks: Earlier this week Congress passed a 1-week continuing resolution to fund the federal government. This was passed with the aim of giving congress more time to negotiate Covid relief that could be included in the federal budget bill. Most of the consensus so far has come from legislators that aren't in positions of power and ultimately, if there isn't agreement between congressional leadership, (Pelosi, McConnell, and Schumer) very little can get done. It is possible that congress will extend their session to Christmas in an effort to get something in place since more government benefits will expire on the 26th. [To read more about the budget bill and continuing relief talks, click here.](#)

Provider Relief Fund: For providers who have applied for funds through PRF phase 3, we are hearing those payments have NOT been issued yet. So if you applied and not received a payment, HHS is working on getting money distributed hopefully within the next few weeks. If you applied for phase 2 funds and haven't received them, Please contact Christine at Ctouville@opra.org. Providers in other states have experienced some problems getting their payout and we can try to help move things along.

Core Committee: The DODD 'Core Committee' met this week to continue discussions on how to support day array services in the new year and beyond. As DODD has made the decision to transition to an 'acuity B' rate model for center-based services in the new year, we continue to look for other ways to ensure that day and vocational services can be delivered safely and sustainably. Discussions included changes to the flexibilities in STEP services, allowing groups of 5 people, a daily billing rate and the ability to 'drop-in' to facilities if/when needed. We also continue to advocate for additional fiscal and regulatory relief through Ohio's re-application for Appendix K. [Click here to see the DODD data presentation on the status of day array service authorization since the pandemic.](#)



In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

Memo Monday: This week's roundup of memos contained information on the joint DODD/ODH Infection control webinar, updates on the BinaxNow Rapid Antigen tests for ICF residents, the acuity B adult day array announcement and several other memos. [Click here to read Memo Monday.](#)

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.](#)

BWC- For those agencies enrolled in the BWC State insurance fund, dividend checks started to get cut this week so we expect members to begin receiving them soon.

CRF- Just a reminder that ICFs who applied for the Coronavirus Relief Fund through OBM, those funds must be spent by the end of the year or will need to be sent back.

OOD Works Podcast: Partnership with Kroger Expands Job Opportunities



Upcoming Events

[12/14: OPRA Policy Committee](#)

[12/15: "December to Remember the Frontline" \(see poster above\)](#)

[12/16: OPRA Residential Waiver & ICF Committees](#)

[12/17: OPRA Day Service & Employment Service Committee](#)

News and Resources

["Ohio schools set new record for most coronavirus cases reported in a week"](#)

["New Program Aims To Train Doctors On Developmental Disabilities"](#)

[NBC News Video: "Families with Special Needs Hit Hard by the Pandemic"](#)

[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 11, 2020:

COVID-19 Testing Results for Reportable MUIs			
Negative	Pending	Positive	Total
666	15	601	1,282

- 601 people served have tested positive for COVID-19 and been hospitalized. This is an increase of 73 additional positives since the 12/4 report.
- 77 people served have passed away who have tested positive for COVID-19. There were 7 additional confirmed deaths since the 12/4 report.
- There were 1,258 people hospitalized and tested for COVID-19, which resulted in a MUI filing. This is an increase of 90 since the 12/4 report.
- A total of 1,282 COVID-19 reportable MUIs were filed as 24 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 7 developmental centers with COVID related MUIs (CADC, CDC, GDC, TDC, MVDC, WDC and NODC).
- Franklin had the most people hospitalized and tested with 169 followed by Cuyahoga with 163.
- Cuyahoga had 80 people who tested positive and Franklin had 73.

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 54 years. The most common age was 61 years.
- The breakdown of people tested by race is:
 - Black or African American-15% (48% positive testing rate)
 - Other Race -2% (54% positive testing rate)
 - Unknown-5% (46% positive testing rate)
 - White/Caucasian 78% (46% positive testing rate)

COVID-19 Deaths:

- [The mortality rate of those passing from COVID-19 \(77\) and the total people served \(94,890\) is .081.](#)
- 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 31 counties and 1 DC have reported COVID-19 deaths.

Living Arrangement/COVID Deaths	Count
Correctional Facility	1
Family	7
ICF	22
Licensed Waiver	10
Nursing Facility	10
Supported Living	27
Grand Total	77

