

# OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

FEBRUARY 5, 2021

**State Budget:** On Monday, Governor DeWine unveiled his recommendations for the 2022/2023 State Biennium budget. Leading up to the proposal, we were expecting to see a fairly flat budget, and so far there have been no big surprises from the budget info released so far. We were pleased to see that there are no proposed cuts to Medicaid-funded disability services, but we still have concerns and need more clarity on the potential impact to ICF reimbursement. Additionally, there is funding for 700 waivers to satisfy the Ball v DeWine lawsuit, investment in technology to support independence and employment, and further investment in the Multi-system youth program. The Governor's budget formally kicks off this budget season and we will be working closely with our members, committees and system partners to determine budget priorities and develop advocacy strategies over the coming weeks and months. [Click here to learn more about DODD's proposed state budget initiatives.](#) Please reach out to Christine or Pete with any questions or feedback on the biennium budget process.

**Wage Verification:** As part of the process resulting from last biennium's investment in rates to support a direct support wage increase, OPRA has been working with DODD and our system partners to help develop a tool providers can use to demonstrate that rate increases were used towards staff wages or benefits. We want to thank Gary Brown of Brady Ware for being a key partner and leading the development of this tool. Before implementation next year, a group of 16 providers will pilot the tool and provide feedback to OPRA and the wage verification workgroup. [Click here to read the announcement of the wage verification tool and pilot process.](#)

**Day Service Cohorts:** Soon after sending last week's Friday 5, we received word that Director McCloud of ODH had signed the revised order allowing for groups of 12 people, not including staff in day/vocational center-based service groups. The order incorporates much of the previous guidance from DODD, but does not include the 50% occupancy or requirement for distinct entrances and restrooms as long as distancing and sanitization measures are followed. Providers do not need to complete a new provider assurance form in order to add people to existing groups/cohorts, but will need to complete an assurance if adding entire new groups to a center. [Click here to read the order](#) and please feel free to reach out to Scott at smarks@opra.org with any questions or concerns.

**OSHA Guidance:** Late last week, OSHA issued new guidance for employers intended to "implement a coronavirus prevention program and better identify risks which could lead to exposure and contraction." Per the updated guidance, employers are expected to do the following;

- Conduct a hazard assessment.
- Identify control measures to limit the spread of the virus.
- Adopt policies for employee absences that don't punish workers as a way to encourage potentially infected workers to remain home.
- Ensure that coronavirus policies and procedures are communicated to both English and non-English speaking workers.
- Implement protections from retaliation for workers who raise coronavirus-related concerns.

[Click here to read the release from OSHA.](#) Please contact Rachel at Rhayes@opra.org with any questions or feedback.



# In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

**Memo Monday:** DODD's weekly roundup included a number of memos including the delay of BEST implementation, the increased day service group numbers, ICF cost reporting deadline, capital housing funding and many more. [Click here to read Memo Monday.](#)

**BWC Air Quality Grants:** The extended timeline for the BWC's reimbursement grant opportunity for adult day centers that have invested in air quality/purification ends March 31st. If you believe you have made investments that would qualify for this opportunity, [please check out the link here.](#) Contact Christine at Ctouville@opra.org with any questions about the grant.

**Townhall Tuesdays:** OPRA will be reviving our "TownHall Tuesdays" this month, starting with a Members-Only Zoom meeting to review the Governor's proposed state budget on 2/16 at 8:30 am. We will spend the hour talking about what we know is in the Governor's executive budget, some initial reactions from the OPRA team, and share some advocacy resources we have been developing. A calendar invite has been sent to the membership. There is no cost to attend. This is a Members-Only event and we ask that you do not forward the invitation to anyone outside your organization.

We intend this to be the start of regular, monthly TownHall Tuesdays, where we will take a deeper dive into important topics, host guest speakers and provide interactive networking opportunities.

**Blue Print Feedback:** DODD has pushed back the submission date for feedback on the 15 Blueprint workgroup proposals. OPRA will take the extra time to compile and develop more member feedback before submitting to DODD next week. If you would still like to review and provide feedback on the proposals, [click here](#), and feel free to send feedback to Scott at smarks@opra.org.

## VIRTUAL SPRING CONFERENCE

May 6 - 7, 2021

### Speaker Proposals

OPRA welcomes proposals from qualified candidates.

Multiple session proposals are permitted.

[CLICK to Complete Form](#)

## Upcoming Events

**2/10: OPRA Training Workshop:  
HIPAA 6-Part Series-Day 5**

**2/11: OPRA Health Care Committee**

## News and Resources

**"Coronavirus in Ohio Thursday update: Over  
4,100 new cases reported"**

**"Nike's First Hands-Free Sneaker Is An  
Accessibility Game Changer"**

**"Ohio Governor offers COVID-19 update on  
vaccine equity"**

**OPRA COVID-19 Resources**



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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 January 29, 2021:

COVID-19 Testing Results for Reportable MUIs			
Negative	Pending	Positive	Total
747	15	934	1,696

- 934 people served have tested positive for COVID-19 and been hospitalized. This is an increase of 39 additional positives since the 1/22 report.
- 175 people served have passed away who have tested positive for COVID-19. There were 14 additional confirmed deaths since the 1/22 report.
- There were 1,633 people hospitalized and tested for COVID-19, which resulted in a MUI filing. This is an increase of 42 since the 1/22 report.
- A total of 1,696 COVID-19 reportable MUIs were filed as 63 individuals were never hospitalized but it was later determined their cause of death was COVID-19.

### Impacted Counties/Developmental Centers:

- There are 83 counties and 8 developmental centers with COVID related MUIs (CADC, CDC, GDC, TDC, MVDC, SODC, WDC and NODC).
- Franklin had the most people hospitalized and tested with 210 followed by Cuyahoga with 192.
- Franklin had the most people who tested positive at 108 people followed by Cuyahoga with 101.

### Testing Demographics:

- Males accounted for 60.43% of those tested and females 39.57%.
- 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% (58% positive testing rate)
  - Other Race -2% (56% positive testing rate)
  - Unknown-5% (51% positive testing rate)
  - White/Caucasian 78% (55% positive testing rate)

County or DC with COVID Deaths	Count	County or DC with COVID Deaths	Count
Allen	3	Marion	1
Ashtabula	3	Miami	1
Belmont	1	Montgomery	8
Butler	4	Muskingum	1
CDC	1	NODC	4
Champaign	1	Ottawa	7
Clark	4	Perry	2
Clermont	2	Pickaway	2
Clinton	1	Preble	1
Coshocton	4	Richland	4
Cuyahoga	11	Sandusky	3
Delaware	2	Scioto	1
Fairfield	1	Seneca	1
Franklin	16	Stark	10
Greene	1	Summit	5
Hamilton	10	TDC	1
Hardin	1	Trumbull	4
Henry	1	Tuscarawas	3
Holmes	1	Vinton	1
Lake	6	Warren	6
Lawrence	1	Wayne	4
Licking	7	Williams	1
Lorain	2	Wood	3
Lucas	14	Wyandot	2
Mahoning	1	Grand Total	175

### COVID-19 Deaths:

- The mortality rate of those passing from COVID-19 (175) and the total people served (94,890) is 0.184%.
- The ages of those who passed away range from 20-95 years of age.
- The average age of the person who died was 62 years old.
- A total of 46 counties and 3 DCs have reported COVID-19 deaths.

Living Arrangement/COVID Deaths	Count
Correctional Facility	1
Family	20
ICF	60
Licensed Waiver	15
Nursing Facility	24
Supported Living	55
Grand Total	175

