

# OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

SEPTEMBER 10, 2021

**Vaccination Mandates:** Yesterday, [President Biden announced new mandates](#) which will ultimately affect millions of Americans and likely includes the services you provide. The Administration has outlined a 6-point plan to combat COVID and increase vaccinations, part of which includes:

- The Administration will require health care workers at facilities that receive Medicare and Medicaid to be fully vaccinated. [As part of this plan, CMS has sent out an announcement expanding vaccination requirements for health care settings.](#) In reading the language from CMS, it would seem that ICF's and HCBS waiver providers are likely included. We are awaiting further clarification from CMS as well as our partners on this potential requirement.
- The Labor Department will issue a directive that all businesses with 100 or more employees must ensure their workers are either vaccinated or tested once a week. Companies that do not comply could face fines. This directive will be issued through OSHA as an Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) which will require all employers with 100+ employees "ensure their workplace is fully vaccinated or require any workers who remain unvaccinated to produce a negative test result on a weekly basis." Additionally, it requires employers to provide Paid Time Off for vaccination or illness from vaccination. It is unknown who would pay for testing at this time.
- The President has signed an executive order requiring all government employees and employees of contractors who do business with the federal government be vaccinated with no option of being regularly tested to opt out.
- 300,000 educators in the federal Head Start program must be vaccinated. Additionally, he called on governors to require vaccinations for teachers and school staff.

While we understand and appreciate the administration's efforts to increase vaccinations and curb the spread of the Delta variant of COVID-19, we are fully aware and have major concerns about the mandates' potential impact on staffing. [We have sent letters to Senators Brown and Portman and Governor DeWine, outlining our concerns with the approach.](#)

**Federal Advocacy:** Our partners at ANCOR are organizing another advocacy push for the additional \$400B for HCBS services through the budget reconciliation process. We will be drafting a letter to our Senators expressing the deep need for the extra funding and are seeking Members who want to sign on to the letter. Please watch the listserv for the letter and the opportunity to sign on. If you have any questions, please let [Christine](#) know.

**Catalytic Converter Bill-** Recently Rep. Bob Green introduced a bill into the Ohio General Assembly aimed at finding ways to bring down the number of catalytic converter thefts. We offered our support to Rep Green's office and offer the possibility to provide data on how these thefts have impacted providers. In the near future we may be asking for some data from those of you who have had converters stolen from your fleet. You can read more about the new bill [here](#).

**OOD Advocacy:** We met with leadership from OOD this week to discuss the challenges raised by members who provide vocational rehab services including job coach shortages, low development/placement referrals and the vendor portal. OOD reps will join us for next week's Day & Employment service committee to follow up on these issues. Please contact Scott with any questions.



# In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

**Memo Monday:** This week's roundup of DODD communications included information on the new CEO/DOO training courses, upcoming trainings on the of the Outcome Tracking System (OTS), Virtual regional support for OISP plan writers (SSAs and QIDPs) and the upcoming webinars on alternative EVV systems. [Click here to read Memo Monday.](#)

**Provider Relief Fund:** HRSA has just shared some new updates to the Provider Relief Fund that includes a 4th Phase of funding availability, the opportunity for reconsideration of Phase 3 funding levels, and a delay in the reporting for those of you who received more than \$10,000 in the First Phase. The announcement doesn't explicitly say that our services are eligible for Phase 4 but HRSA's website does list out DD services as an eligible provider type. There are more details on HRSA's website about whether or not your organization may be eligible, so we encourage you to take a look at the Future Payments website included in the announcement. [Click here to read the announcement.](#)

**OOD Billing:** Per OOD announcement earlier this week; "Due to the influx of Summer Youth and other billings over the last few weeks as well as the short work week due to Labor Day, OOD is experiencing higher than normal volume in our billing fax queue. While we typically turn around bills in the queue within three business days, we are currently taking as much as ten business days. Please know that OOD remains committed to the prompt processing of bills, particularly due to the economic and other pressures that many of our providers are currently experiencing. We have put strategies in place to address this so that we may resume our typical turnaround time as soon as possible. If you have already submitted an invoice and are awaiting payment, please do not resubmit, as this further slows down our processing time. We appreciate your patience as we work to resume our standards for timeliness." Please contact Scott with any concerns or questions about this announcement.



**DSP Recognition Week:** As you celebrate your DSPs next week, please feel free to send us any pictures or videos of your recognition activities. In addition to delivering gift baskets to the winners of our DSP raffle, we would love to recognize your recognition! Please feel free to send any pics or videos to [Melissa](#).

## Upcoming Events

**9/15: HIPAA Fall 2021 Six Part Training Series**  
**Session 2: Organizing an Evaluation of Privacy & Security Risks**

**9/16: OPRA Day & Employment Service Committees Meeting**

**9/16: OPRA District 3 Meeting**

## News and Resources

**"Coronavirus in Ohio Thursday update: Nearly 7,900 new cases reported"**

**"Ohio DD Council releases annual report; highlights projects for Ohioans with disabilities"**

**"Columbus mask order to require masks for all publicly accessible indoor spaces"**

**"CDC Launches COVID-19 Resources for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities"**



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As of September 10, 2021:

COVID-19 Testing Results for Reportable MUIs			
Negative	Pending	Positive	Total
971	3	1,123	2,097

- 1,123 people served have tested positive for COVID-19 and been hospitalized. This is an increase of 18 additional positives since the 9/3 report.
- 242 people served have passed away who have tested positive for COVID-19. There was 1 additional confirmed death since the 9/3 report.
- There were 2,002 people hospitalized and tested for COVID-19, which resulted in a MUI filing. This is an increase of 24 since the 9/3 report.
- A total of 2,097 COVID-19 reportable MUIs were filed as 95 individuals were never hospitalized but it was later determined their cause of death was COVID-19.

### Impacted Counties/Developmental Centers:

- There are 86 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 245 followed by Cuyahoga with 220.
- Franklin had the most people tested positive with 124 and Cuyahoga with 123.

### Testing Demographics:

- Males accounted for 60.13% of those tested and females 39.87%.
- Ages of people tested ranged from 1 to 95 years. The average age was 54 years. The most common ages are 61.
- The breakdown of people tested by race is:
  - Black or African American-15% (56% positive testing rate)
  - Other Race -2% (56% positive testing rate)
  - Unknown-5% (49% positive testing rate)
  - White/Caucasian 78% (53% positive testing rate)

### COVID-19 Deaths:

- The mortality rate of those passing from COVID-19 (242) and the total people served (94,890) is 0.255%.
- The ages of those who died range from 4-95 years of age.
- The average age of the person who died was 62 years old.
- A total of 56 counties and 3 DCs (CDC, NODC, TDC) have reported COVID-19 deaths.
- Franklin has the most confirmed COVID deaths with 22.

#### COVID Related Deaths:

County or DC with COVID Deaths							
Adams	1	Fairfield	2	Lucas	17	Sandusky	6
Allen	4	Franklin	22	Mahoning	2	Scioto	2
Ashtabula	3	Fulton	1	Marion	1	Seneca	1
Belmont	1	Gallia	3	Miami	1	Stark	15
Butler	6	Geauga	1	Montgomery	10	Summit	9
Carroll	1	Greene	2	Morrow	1	TDC	1
CDC	2	Hamilton	13	Muskingum	1	Trumbull	5
Champaign	1	Hardin	1	NODC	4	Tuscarawas	4
Clark	6	Henry	1	Ottawa	9	Vinton	1
Clermont	4	Holmes	1	Perry	4	Warren	6
Clinton	1	Jefferson	1	Pickaway	2	Wayne	4
Coshocton	4	Lake	6	Portage	1	Williams	1
Cuyahoga	16	Lawrence	1	Preble	3	Wood	3
Darke	1	Licking	7	Richland	6	Wyandot	2
Delaware	2	Lorain	4	Ross	1	Grand Total	242
Living Arrangement/COVID Deaths							Count
Correctional Facility							1
Family							39
ICF							71
Licensed Waiver							21
Nursing Facility							30
Supported Living							80
Grand Total							242

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](#).



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Fall Conference  
November 4 - 5

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