

OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

DECEMBER 3, 2021

Vaccine Mandates: Earlier this week, a Federal District Court in Louisiana issued a nation-wide injunction on CMS's vaccine mandate, which had been set to go into effect on December 6th. The injunction follows a similar order from a Missouri court, staying the order in 10 states. [CMS then issued a QSO](#) indicating that implementation of the mandate is on hold until the court cases conclude. The administration has appealed the injunctions and the cases will head to the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, likely ending up before the US Supreme Court. Given CMS's broad authority to regulate providers under conditions of participation and new concerns about the new COVID variant, it is likely the administration will make a strong push to overturn the injunctions and we believe [providers should still be preparing policies](#) in the event the injunction is overturned. Federal courts also [overturned mandates for Federal contractors in 3 states, including Ohio](#). Earlier this week, OPRA also submitted a letter to Governor DeWine and administrative and legislative partners outlining concerns regarding both the staffing impact of CMS's vaccine mandate, as well as the need for relief ARPA funding for ICF providers. [Click here to read the ICF letter](#).

Wage Verification: The Wage Verification group met this week to finalize approval for the wage information for 2020. 400 providers were surveyed as a pilot project to see if the state budget increases from 2019 were going towards DSPs. The usable data, did in fact show an increase in both the average wage and total compensation, with statewide average wages hitting \$13/hr, while the wage component piece of the rate only reimbursed for \$12.82. Total compensation, including benefits, rose to \$18.05 in 2020, while reimbursement only equaled \$16.67. This survey will be mandatory for all providers in 2022 as we collect data from wages from 2021. We are making adjustments to the survey tool and will continue to have discussions about what will won't be published openly to the public. Please reach out to [Pete](#) with any questions.

Waiver Simplification: The workgroup looking to simplify Ohio's DD waiver system has decided to form smaller subgroups and is looking for volunteers for the committees. The four committees are Level 1 changes, SELF (general education), Self Directed Transportation, and Participant Directed Goods and Services. Each group will then be tasked with planning and re-doing any documents as part of that particular group. So we of course will be participating in these small groups and will continue to update everyone as we go through this process.

Blueprint/BEST: 2 sub-committees of the Blueprint implementation workgroup met this week; the training & TA committee, as well as the rule & waiver committee. The latter committee focused on proposed rule language for both the proposed BEST (Basic Employment Skills Training) and revisions to the Employment First rule. [Both drafts can be found here](#). Our concerns about the timing and details of the BEST rule have only increased over time and committee meetings, and we still believe we need to build capacity for employment services before implementing this rule.

Med Admin: After several meetings, attempting to 'break up' the med admin delegation training in an effort to get staff engaged faster, the group decided, for a variety of reasons, not to move forward with the plan. We do hope this work has opened up new opportunities for simplification of certification, delegation and billing in nursing services. Please contact [Rachel](#) for more information.



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 draft Technology First Rule, the new DODD Rapid Response System (RRS) intended to accelerate conversations between local teams and technology vendors, and an update on the OSOC determination tool. [Click here to read Memo Monday.](#)



The banner features the OPRA logo (Ohio Provider Resource Association) with the word "Training" below it. To the right, the word "ONLINE" is in large white letters on an orange background, and "TRAINING" is in large white letters on a teal background. Below this, the text "December 8 from 1 pm to 4 pm" and "Retention and Culture Workshop" is displayed. A list of bullet points follows: "Make simple changes to your onboarding program so new staff aren't overwhelmed" and "Nurture your culture for free and do it despite not having enough time". The "blitz" logo is on the right. At the bottom right, the website "WWW.OPRA.ORG" is shown in a blue box.

OPRA
Ohio Provider Resource Association
Training

ONLINE TRAINING

December 8 from 1 pm to 4 pm
Retention and Culture Workshop

- Make simple changes to your onboarding program so new staff aren't overwhelmed
- Nurture your culture for free and do it despite not having enough time

blitz

WWW.OPRA.ORG

Upcoming Events

[12/8: OPRA Training Workshop: Blitz Media-Retention and Culture Workshop](#)

[12/9: OPRA Webinar: Emergency Planning and the Workforce Crisis](#)

News and Resources

["CDC: 'Everyone Ages 18 and Older Should Get a Booster Shot'"](#)

["Senate Passes Bill to Fund the Government"](#)

["Federal Contractors' Alert: Minimum Wage for Workers Is Going Up January 30, 2022"](#)

["Supreme Court won't exempt Mass. hospital workers from vaccine mandate"](#)



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As of December 3, 2021:

COVID-19 Testing Results for Reportable MUIs			
Negative	Pending	Positive	Total
1,053	1	1,316	2,370

- 1,316 people served have tested positive for COVID-19 and been hospitalized. There were **22 additional positives** since the 11/26 report.
- There were **29 additional hospitalizations** since the 11/26 report. This is a total of 2,245 people hospitalized and tested for COVID-19.
- A total of **2,370 COVID-19 reportable MUIs** have been filed as 125 individuals were never hospitalized but COVID-19 was suspected or later determined as their cause of death.
- 288 people served have passed away who have tested positive for COVID-19. There were **2 additional confirmed deaths** since the 11/26 report.

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 253 followed by Cuyahoga with 234.
- Cuyahoga had the most people tested positive with 135 and Franklin had 130.

Testing Demographics:

- Males accounted for 59.92% of those tested and females 40.08%.
- Ages of people tested ranged from 1 to 95 years. The average age was 56 years. The most common ages are 62.
- 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% (52% positive testing rate)
- White/Caucasian 78% (55% positive testing rate)

COVID-19 Deaths:

- The mortality rate of those passing from COVID-19 (288) and the total people served (98,956) is 0.2910%.
- The ages of those who died range from 4-95 years of age.
- The average age of the person who died was 61 years old.
- A total of 68 counties and 3 DCs (CDC, NODC, TDC) have reported COVID-19 deaths.
- Franklin has the most confirmed COVID deaths with 23.

COVID Related Deaths:

County or DCs with COVID Deaths							
Adams	2	Fulton	1	Medina	1	Stark	18
Allen	5	Gallia	3	Meigs	1	Summit	11
Ashtabula	3	Geauga	1	Miami	3	TDC	1
Athens	2	Greene	2	Montgomery	12	Trumbull	7
Belmont	1	Hamilton	14	Morgan	1	Tuscarawas	5
Brown	1	Hardin	1	Morrow	1	Vinton	1
Butler	7	Henry	1	Muskingum	1	Warren	6
Carroll	1	Highland	2	NODC	4	Wayne	4
CDC	2	Holmes	1	Ottawa	10	Williams	1
Champaign	1	Jefferson	1	Perry	4	Wood	4
Clark	6	Knox	2	Pickaway	2	Wyandot	2
Clermont	5	Lake	6	Pike	1	Grand Total	288
Clinton	1	Lawrence	2	Portage	1		
Coshocton	5	Licking	7	Preble	3		
Cuyahoga	17	Logan	1	Richland	7		
Darke	2	Lorain	4	Ross	1		
Delaware	4	Lucas	20	Sandusky	6		
Fairfield	3	Mahoning	5	Scioto	2		
Franklin	23	Marion	1	Seneca	1		

