

OPRA FRIDAY 5

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

MARCH 11, 2022

ARPA: Last week we sat on a call hosted by the Ohio Department of Medicaid for the various associations to discuss the recent tranche of ARPA dollars. Most HCBS providers should have already received the funding but there are about 60 independent and agency providers who DODD is reaching out to individually to resolve some issues. After we inquired about potential reporting or 'strings attached' to the dollars, we were pointed back to the emergency rules, which does not specify either reporting or usage requirements for the payments. As of earlier this week, ODM still had not received approval from CMS on the ICF payments but feel they are close. We also learned that the payments will be based on bed counts as of 3/1, as opposed to the original date of 12/21. We also heard that it is unlikely that you will receive a notification from the state once the money is deposited because of how the state is making the deposits. [You can find more resources here.](#)

On-site/On-call: The OSOC team continues to meet and have come up with a solution to some of the issues when the assessment falls outside of the 3 definitive answers, (OSOC, HPC, or RS). Depending upon how someone answered the questions, there was sometimes an error showing up in which it would not allow the assessor to get it out of draft status. Therefore, an answer of "inconclusive" is being added. This will replace the error and allow the assessment to move forward out of draft status. The team would then need to meet, determine, and assess the most appropriate service for the individual. This change will come on March 24th. In between now and March 24th, if the result comes up as an error, the assessment should remain in draft status until the update. Once the update is made, the county boards will go in to complete the assessment and get the answer of "inconclusive". The department will take some data as to the "inconclusive" result and what may be causing this. Again, this change is coming March 24th. Please contact [Rachel](#) with any questions.

CDC Guidance: Recently the CDC changed the guidance for masking by moving to a [system that designates counties as Low, Medium, or High Risk](#). People who live in areas designated as "High Risk" should continue to utilize masks in indoor settings. OPRA participated in a call with CMS this afternoon in which we posed the question about current masking requirements for ICFs specifically. During the call, CMS stated that, to date no new guidance has been issued or updated and ICF's should continue their masking practices until such time as further guidance may be issued. CMS did state that they are taking this issue under advisement and do recognize the difficulty the rapidly changing guidance poses to providers. So, to clarify:

For HCBS providers: HCBS providers should consult their local health departments to determine their county's level of risk and then make their determination regarding mask usage.

For ICF providers: ICF providers should continue their current practice regarding mask usage until such time as further guidance may be issued

NADSP: We had the opportunity to participate in [NADSP's national virtual advocacy day](#). We had some really dedicated DSPs on who were able to share their stories working in the system pre and during the pandemic and how the job has shifted over time with US legislators from Ohio. We met with some new aides in the Senate offices so it was nice to meet some new contacts and to hopefully have some new advocates within the offices.



In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

Memo Monday: [This week's roundup of DODD communications](#) included an update on the OSOC information shared on the call and earlier in the newsletter, upcoming Tech Ambassador trainings and new guidance regarding OSL and HPC. Please reach out with questions/concerns.

PRF Phase 2 Reporting: HRSA announced that the reporting period for PRF Phase 2 is now open and will be until March 31, 2022. Phase 2 includes "Providers who received one or more General and/or Targeted PRF payments exceeding \$10,000, in the aggregate, from July 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020 must report on their use of funds in Reporting Period 2." [Click here for more information.](#)

CMS: Phase 2 implementation begins March 15th of the CMS vaccine mandate. Impacted providers must have a process or plan in place for vaccinating all eligible staff, a process or plan for providing exemptions or accommodations, and a process or plan for tracking and documenting staff vaccinations. [Click here for OPRA's CMS IFR resource page.](#) Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions. We welcome the opportunity to assist with this very complicated rule.



The OPRA Spring Conference is THE place to network, engage around the latest issues facing providers, find resources to benefit your organization and learn from first-rate speakers. Participate face-to-face or virtually from wherever you're most comfortable! Questions? Contact Melissa Fannon, OPRA Events Manager at mfannon@opra.org

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE](#)



Check out this line-up of SHRM- and HRCI-accredited courses on how to manage privacy and cybersecurity.

[Click here to register for the series \(9 sessions\) or a la carte](#)

Upcoming Events

[3/15: Marketing & Communications Committee Meeting](#)

[3/17: HIPAA Employee Responsibilities for Privacy & Cybersecurity](#)

[3/17: OPRA Day & Employment Services Committees Meeting](#)

News and Resources

["Ohio to no longer post daily COVID reports"](#)

[CDC: U.S. COVID-19 Community Levels by County Map](#)

[NACDD's resource page for Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month](#)

["Employment First Initiative celebrates 10 Year Anniversary"](#)



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Please find this week's MUI updates. The number of COVID-19 MUIs has decreased in the past week, and we are hopeful this trend will continue. On Tuesday and Thursday of this past week our daily report recorded 0 new hospitalizations, 0 new positive tests and 0 deaths. This is the first time we've had this kind of report since the beginning of the pandemic. **Very Good News....!!** It's so nice to see things improving....!! We are continuing to follow 12 deaths we are aware of that may be COVID-19 related.

Please let us know if you have any questions. Have a great weekend....!!

COVID-19 Testing Results for Reportable MUIs-March 11			
Negative	Pending	Positive	Total
1,105	0	1,583	2,688

- 1,583 people served have tested positive for COVID-19 and been hospitalized. There were **2 additional positives** since the 3/4 report.
- There were **5 additional hospitalizations** since the 3/4 report. This is a total of 2,522 people hospitalized and tested for COVID-19.
- A total of 2,688 COVID-19 reportable MUIs have been filed as 166 individuals were never hospitalized but COVID-19 was suspected or later determined as their cause of death.
- 365 people served have passed away who have tested positive for COVID-19. There were **3 additional confirmed deaths** since the 3/4 report.

Impacted Counties/Developmental Centers:

- There are 87 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 267 followed by Cuyahoga with 255.
- Cuyahoga had the most people tested positive with 158 and Franklin had 145.

Testing Demographics:

- Males accounted for 59.30% of those tested and females 40.70%.
- Ages of people tested ranged from 1 to 95 years. The average age was 54 years. The most common ages are 62.
- The breakdown of people tested by race is:
 - Black or African American-14% (60% positive testing rate)
 - Other Race -2% (56% positive testing rate)
 - Unknown-5% (52% positive testing rate)
 - White/Caucasian 79% (59% positive testing rate)

COVID Related Deaths:

County or DCs with COVID Deaths					
Adams	2	Franklin	28	Lucas	22
Allen	6	Fulton	2	Mahoning	8
Ashtabula	3	Gallia	4	Marion	1
Athens	2	Geauga	1	Medina	1
Belmont	1	Greene	3	Meigs	1
Brown	1	Hamilton	15	Miami	4
Butler	10	Hancock	5	Montgomery	15
Carroll	1	Hardin	1	Morgan	2
CDC	2	Henry	1	Morrow	2
Champaign	1	Highland	2	Muskingum	1
Clark	6	Holmes	2	MVDC	2
Clermont	6	Huron	1	Noble	1
Clinton	1	Jefferson	2	NODC	4
Coshocton	7	Knox	3	Ottawa	10
Cuyahoga	21	Lake	10	Perry	4
Darke	2	Lawrence	2	Pickaway	2
Delaware	5	Licking	8	Pike	1
Erie	1	Logan	1	Portage	2
Fairfield	5	Lorain	6	Preble	3
				Grand Total	365

COVID-19 Deaths:

- The mortality rate of those passing from COVID-19 (365) and the total people served (98,956) is 0.368%.
- The ages of those who died range from 4-95 years of age.
- The average age of the person who died was 60 years old.
- A total of 69 counties and 4 DCs (CDC, MVDC, NODC, TDC) have reported COVID-19 deaths.
- Franklin has the most confirmed COVID deaths with 28.

The Department provides this 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](#). Thank you.

