

# The Academy Weekly

News & Information for LTC Providers

The Academy of Senior Health Sciences, Inc.

[www.seniorhealthsciences.org](http://www.seniorhealthsciences.org)

Week of 11 April 2021

## Ohio News

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## Ohio News

### Gray explained; use last available colors

Ohio Department of Health issued a EIDC notice that explained the "gray" color for the county positivity rates. [From the notice:](#)

"The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has transitioned all states to calculating percent positivity using reported laboratory results rather than reported aggregate counts. To facilitate this transition, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) has been working with the CDC's technical team the past two months to validate Ohio's reported laboratory results. This work included the collection and reconciliation of the required data from many of Ohio's laboratories.

ODH anticipates finalizing the validation next week so that the CDC, in partnership with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), can continue reporting positivity data

for Ohio the week of April 26, 2021. Until that time, Ohio nursing homes should refer to their county's most recently published test positivity classification for the period ending March 30, 2021."

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### **State finances remain strong**

As Sub. H.B. 110 prepares to leave the House and head to the Senate, the news about state finances remains positive. [According to the latest Budget Footnotes](#), which covers through March, the state is on track to have a surplus of over \$1.23 billion in the General Revenue Fund (GRF). And this is despite low estimates for personal income tax because of the extension to file until May 17th. Medicaid continues to be a driver behind the savings - \$447 million under estimates for March alone and \$1.9 billion for the state fiscal year. Much of the under spending is caused by a caseloads 12 percent below expected levels. Furthermore, the extension of the enhanced federal matching rate to six more months was not in the revised budget. This shifted more of the funding for Medicaid from the GRF to federal sources. [\(Back to top.\)](#)

### **House expected to pass budget bill this week**

The House Finance Committee spent the weekend preparing an omnibus amendment to H.B. 110 and is expected to vote the bill out of committee Tuesday or Wednesday. The bill would then go to the House floor for a vote later this week. As the House continues its work, the Senate heard budget testimony from OBM and LSC and the various committees also began testimony last week. The Senate is on track to pass the bill in late May or Early June, allowing several weeks for conference committee to iron out the differences.

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### **No post-payment report for 2017 and 18 list**

According to ODM, the providers that are listed on [the Excel spreadsheet available by clicking here](#) will not be receiving a post-payment overpayment report for fiscal years 2017 and 2018. These providers should have received a notice via email Thursday afternoon or Friday.

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## **National News**

**Medicare sequestration suspension extended**

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act suspended the sequestration payment adjustment percentage of 2% applied to all Medicare Fee-for-Service (FFS) claims from May 1 through December 31, 2020. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, extended the suspension period to March 31, 2021. An Act to Prevent Across-the-Board Direct Spending Cuts, and for Other Purposes, signed into law on April 14, 2021, extends the suspension period to December 31, 2021. Medicare Administrative Contractors will:

- Release any previously held claims with dates of service on or after April 1
- Reprocess any claims paid with the reduction applied

Providers do not need to take any action. ([Back to top.](#))

## CDC Updates

The CDC provided the following updates:

**Updated Post-COVID Conditions: Information for Healthcare Providers** – CDC has updated our information for healthcare providers related to health conditions that may persist or recur following infection with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. More information is included about what is currently known about these post-COVID conditions (previously referred to as “Late Sequelae of COVID-19”), an umbrella term for the wide range of health consequences present for more than four weeks after infection. This webpage includes information about multiorgan system effects of COVID-19, the effects of COVID-19 treatment and hospitalizations, and the condition known as “long COVID.” CDC continues active investigation of post-COVID conditions and will provide updates as new data emerge. To learn more, please visit [Post-COVID Conditions: Information for Healthcare Providers](#)

**Updated Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators** – This guidance has been updated to include the following:

- Acknowledged that the supply and availability of NIOSH-approved respirators have increased significantly over the last several months
- For conventional capacity strategies
  - Added language on extended use of N95 respirators as source control
  - Added language on use of respirators with exhalation valves
- For contingency capacity strategies

- Added a strategy to prioritize respirators for HCP who are using them as PPE over those HCP who are only using them for source control
- For extended use of N95 respirators as PPE, clarified that N95 respirators should be discarded immediately after being removed

- For crisis capacity strategies

- Removed the strategy of using non-NIOSH approved respirators developed by manufacturers who are not NIOSH-approval holders
- Highlighted that the number of reuses should be limited to no more than five uses (five donnings) per device by the same HCP to ensure an adequate respirator performance
- Removed decontamination of respirators as a strategy with limited re-use
- Emphasized that facemasks for caring for a patient with suspected or confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection should only be used for certain scenarios as a last resort if respirators are severely limited
- Removed the table “Suggested well-fitting facemask or respirator use, based upon distance from a patient with suspected or confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection and use of source control”

To learn more, please visit [Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators: COVID-19](#)

***Updated* Summary for Healthcare Facilities: Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators during Shortages** — This summary is intended to help healthcare facilities optimize supplies of disposable N95 filtering facepiece respirators when there is limited supply during the COVID-19 pandemic. The strategies are categorized in a continuum of care and further organized according to the hierarchy of controls. To learn more, please visit [Summary for Healthcare Facilities: Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators during Shortages](#)

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## CMS MLN Connects

### [News](#)

- [Medicare FFS Claims: 2% Payment Adjustment \(Sequestration\) Suspended Through December](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine: Check Medicare Eligibility Starting April 16](#)
- [Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine: Information for Long Term Care Facilities](#)

- [Medicare Telehealth Services: Updated List](#)
- [Medicare Pays to Help Patients Plan](#)
- [Sexual Health: Medicare Covers Preventive Services](#)

### Compliance

- [Telehealth Services: Bill Correctly](#)

### Events

- [Medicare Part A Cost Report: Easier File Uploads for e-Filing in MCR eF Webcast – April 29](#)

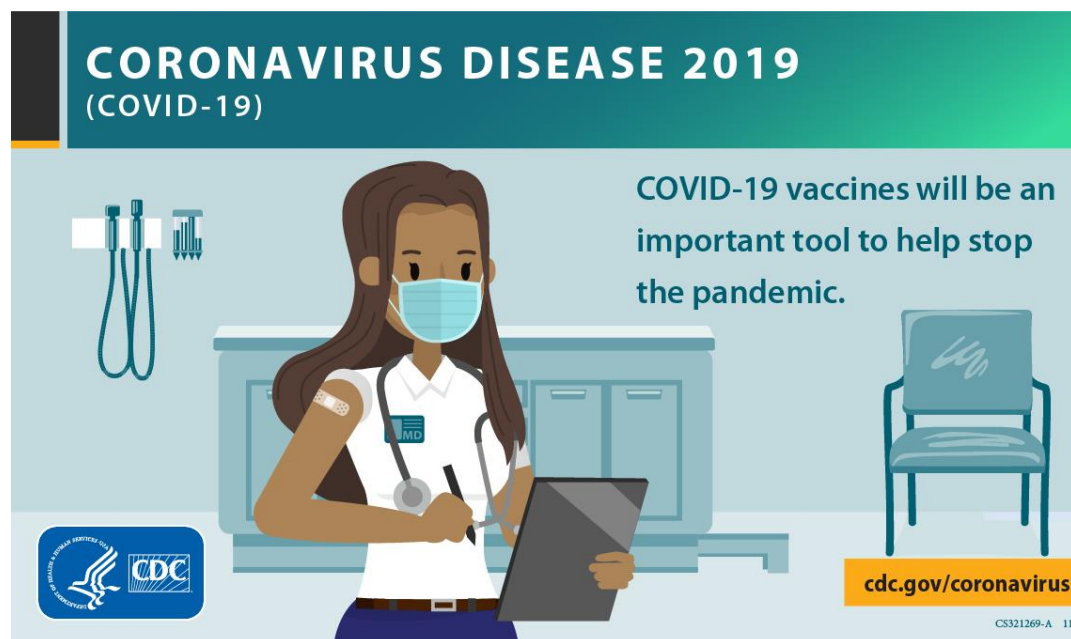
### Multimedia

- [IRF Providers: Assessment of Cognitive Function Web-Based Training](#)
- [Diagnosis Coding: Using the ICD-10-CM Web-Based Training – Revised](#)
- [Procedure Coding: Using the ICD-10-PCS Web-Based Training – Revised](#)

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ODDS AND ENDS

NOTABLE DATES OR  
EVENTS

## ***CMS and CDC Nursing Home Stakeholder Call***

**Wednesday April 21, 2021 at 4pm EST-** Join the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for a National Nursing Home Stakeholder Call. \*\*\* Register in advance for this Zoom Call:\*\*\*

[https://cms.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_vXt-B2jtS4KfurWW\\_xaOuQ](https://cms.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_vXt-B2jtS4KfurWW_xaOuQ)

During the call, the following will be covered:

- Vaccine Updates & Recommendation to Pause Use of Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine
- Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care (LTC) Program updates
- Long-term Care Emergency Regulatory Waivers Issued in Response to COVID-19
- Community Champions

## **ODM Cost Reports**

**Due**

**30 April 2021**

[Click here for QIO training series.](#)

[Click here for CMS NH COVID-19 Training Modules](#)

[Click here to view CGS Part A training events](#)

[Click here to view CGS Part B training events](#)

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