

# The Academy Weekly

News & Information for LTC Providers



The Academy of Senior Health Sciences, Inc.

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

Week of 23 August 2020

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## Ohio News

**State to finish distributing half of \$400 million CRF this week**

The Ohio Office of Budget and Management continues to process coronavirus relief fund (CRF) grant applications from Medicaid and other health care providers. According to OBM, about half of the \$400 million allocated for the CRF will be distributed by the end of this week. The remaining applications need to be manually verified. This can include direct communication with the provider and working with the Ohio Department of Medicaid to ensure the data for payment matches. The payments will continue to be made on a rolling basis, probably twice a week. The majority of payments will be done via EFT. Providers that have applied are asked to be patient as OBM works

through the applications. OBM has said they will stay in communication with The Academy on their progress. ([Back to top.](#))

## **Save the date: Fall Conference Nov 11, 12 and 13!**

The 2020 ASHS/OANAC Fall Conference and Annual Meeting is on! The conference is slated for November 11, 12 and 13. Clear your calendars for a three days of live webinars that will have specific topic areas. Each day is planned to have 6 hours of CEs available. Registrants will have the option of choosing the days for which to register. Stay tuned for more information as we get ready to go virtual! ([Back to top.](#))

## **Notes from the latest ODH/ODM provider meeting**

The Ohio Departments of Health and Medicaid met with long-term care stakeholders last week. Below are notes from the meeting:

- *NH Antigen Testing*: There is currently no official announcement on the state's position related to antigen testing. Many more facilities are expected to receive the machines within the next few months making it more important to know how facilities should use the tests.

- *NH Staff Testing*: Providers that opt-out of the state supported testing can develop their own schedule for testing so long as the staff is tested every fourteen days. The results need to be reported to CCURT using the online survey. For those opting for the state supported testing, the schedule through September 06 has been released and is available

here: <https://odh.ohio.gov/static/REGOPS/NH-Staff-Test-Schedule-08-31-To-09-06.xlsx>

The following notes were released with the schedule via EDIC:

1. Many facilities scheduled to test during the 8/31-9/6 time period will be switching labs.
  - a. None of these lab changes affect facilities that have been using Quest.
  - b. All lab changes are taking place among labs that use the ODH Lab Form Portal. All facilities with lab changes will continue to use the ODH Lab Portal, and must select their newly assigned lab from the lab down menu.
2. Facilities using not listed on the schedule for 8/31-9/6 that are using the state-supported process will be on the schedule released for the following week (9/7-9/12)
  - a. The schedule for 9/7-9/12 will be released via EIDC by 9/2.
  - b. No specimen collections or pick-ups will be scheduled for Labor Day (9/7).

- *Cloth Face Coverings*: Providers are reminded that there has been no change in the CDC guidance regarding face coverings. Cloth face coverings should only be used per CDC guidance (as a last resort). Cloth face coverings are not PPE and are not a substitute for medical grade face coverings.

- *Capital Improvements*: According to ODH, providers can only allow work to continue on a capital improvement if the workers can access the worksite without transgressing any area that is used by

staff or residents. Furthermore, no staff or residents can have access to the work area at anytime. The worksite needs to be completely separated from the part of the facility that residents and staff use. Contracted maintenance personnel can enter a facility following proper protocols only for emergency/essential services (not routine maintenance services).

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### **ODM hosting telehealth webinar**

Please join ODM for an update on ODM's goals and objectives for telehealth services as part of the DeWine Administration's Responsible RestartOhio.

Who: Director Maureen Corcoran and Staff

When: September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 1:00pm-2:00pm

Registration Required – details below

Please register for ODM Telehealth Update on Sep 1, 2020 at 1:00 PM EST:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8237135804708446480>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.\*Please note: the webinar will require attendees to listen through their computer audio, so calling in from a phone will not be an option." [\(Back to top.\)](#)

### **Stakeholders group looks to promote flu vaccination**

The facility-based Ohio long-term care associations, including The Academy, and the Ohio Association of Medical Directors met last week to discuss the flu vaccination of staff and residents. The conversation was spurred by a request from Medicaid Director Corcoran to develop a recommendation regarding mandating the flu vaccine for long-term care staff. The idea was posited both to safeguard residents and staff and to provide a "level playing field" for providers that require the vaccine. The group decided it was not in the best interest to have a mandate. Instead, the associations would support a state-led campaign to encourage all professional caregivers and the elderly that are able to receive the vaccine. The associations will send a letter to the director containing that sentiment along with some ideas for the campaign. Associations were also considering collecting and sharing "success stories" of 100% vaccination rates. We will keep you updated if the campaign comes to fruition. [\(Back to top.\)](#)

## National News

### HHS extends deadline for phase 2 of PRF

The Department of Health and Human Services is extending the deadline for providers to apply for "Phase 2" of the general distribution of the CARES Act Provider Relief Funds (PRF). Phase 2 allows any Medicare or Medicaid provider to apply to receive up to 2% of total patient revenues in PRF. Even if providers received funds from the first general distribution, which was targeted for Medicare providers, can apply. The deadline is now September 13. ([Back to top.](#))

### ICYMI: HHS disburses \$2.5 billion; CMS touts new training

From last week's *Academy Updates* in case you missed it:

#### *HHS Disbursement:*

The Federal Department of Health and Human Services announced in July that an additional \$5 billion of Provider Relief Funds will be made available to nursing homes. In early August, the department said half of the funds will go to nursing homes to help offset the increased costs of COVID such as PPE, training, staffing or testing expenses. The remaining funds would be distributed to providers who are performing well: "Evaluation of performance will consider the prevalence of the virus in the nursing home's local geography, and will be based on the nursing home's ability within this context to minimize COVID spread and COVID-related fatalities among its residents." Today, HHS announced it is releasing the first half of the funds, giving 950 certified nursing homes in Ohio \$135,744,250. [Please click here for the press release, along with more information about new training opportunities.](#) You may want to keep an eye on your accounts for those funds.

#### *CMS Training:*

The CMS Targeted COVID-19 Training for Frontline Nursing Home Staff & Management is available now, with five specific modules designed for frontline clinical staff and 10 designed for nursing home management. The training will be available on the [CMS Quality, Safety & Education Portal](#). The training for frontline staff, called "CMS Targeted COVID-19 Training for Frontline Nursing Home Staff" covers five topics separated into five modules. These modules address some of the most common concerns found by surveyors and strike teams, basic infection control and prevention. The modules are focused on the most urgent needs of frontline nursing home staff and they include:

Module 1: Hand Hygiene and PPE

Module 2: Screening and Surveillance

Module 3: Cleaning the Nursing Home

Module 4: Cohorting

Module 5: Caring for Residents with Dementia in a Pandemic

The training for management, called “CMS Targeted COVID-19 Training for Nursing Home Management” covers 10 topics separated into 10 modules. These modules are comprehensive, focusing on infection control and cleanliness but also larger institution-wide issues like implementation of telehealth, emergency preparedness, and vaccine delivery. They include:

Module 1: Hand Hygiene and PPE

Module 2: Screening and Surveillance

Module 3: Cleaning the Nursing Home

Module 4: Cohorting

Module 5: Caring for Residents with Dementia in a Pandemic

Module 6: Basic Infection Control

Module 7: Emergency Preparedness and Surge Capacity

Module 8: Addressing Emotional Health of Residents and Staff

Module 9: Telehealth for Nursing Homes

Module 10: Getting Your Vaccine Delivery System Ready

To ensure nursing home staff are aware of the training and availing themselves of it, CMS is directing Quality Improvement Organizations (QIOs) – CMS’ nationwide quality improvement contractors – to include the training in the action plans that QIOs develop in collaboration with each nursing home they assist. This will help ensure that nursing homes are building the training into their existing quality improvement efforts.

Finally, while the training announced today is comprehensive, ***CMS and CDC will also have subject matter experts available on bi-weekly webinars from August 27, 2020, through January 7, 2021, from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. ET, to answer questions.*** Registration is required for these Question & Answer sessions. Participants can register on the [Zoom webinar registration page](#).

If a nursing home’s staff is unsure which training module best meets their needs, CMS is offering an online self-assessment tool at [www.qioprogram.org](http://www.qioprogram.org) to help them identify their needs and suggest the appropriate training modules that best reflect those needs. A certificate of completion is offered for each completed training course.

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## CMS MLN Connects

### [News](#)

- [Trump Administration Launches National Training Program to Strengthen Nursing Home Infection Control Practices](#)

- [SNF Provider Preview Reports: Review Your Data by August 30](#)
- [COVID: Nursing Home Toolkit](#)
- [Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program: Become a Medicare Enrolled Supplier](#)

#### [Claims, Pricers & Codes](#)

- [COVID-19: Waive Cost Sharing for These HCPCS Codes](#)

#### [MLN Matters® Articles](#)

- [Medicare Part A Skilled Nursing Facility \(SNF\) Prospective Payment System \(PPS\) Pricer Update FY 2021 – Revised](#)
- [October 2020 Quarterly Average Sales Price \(ASP\) Medicare Part B Drug Pricing Files and Revisions to Prior Quarterly Pricing Files – Revised](#)

#### [Publications](#)

- [Creating an Effective Hospice Plan of Care](#)

#### [Multimedia](#)

- [Physician Fee Schedule Listening Session: Audio Recording and Transcript](#)

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[View this edition online](#)

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**Live Webinars November 11, 12 and 13. More info coming soon!!**



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**ODDS AND ENDS**

***ODM wants feedback on website***

From ODM: "The Ohio Department of Medicaid is redesigning its website, transitioning to the state's "InnovateOhio" platform, and modernizing the information, features and navigation of the agency's portal. A critical part of this effort is making sure we understand what individuals like you want and expect from the Medicaid site. That's why we're inviting you to participate in a brief web user experience survey. We want to know what appeals, what confuses, what's needed, and what's not, based on your relationship and interest in Medicaid's work. The survey should take no more than 5 minutes. Simply hit "submit" when you're finished. If you have yet to submit responses, we would greatly appreciate your feedback.

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=xPz4UNiUBo-E6zbtV8fIokiHtyV\\_BcREkJo0YVoSfsRUNjdOTEhGVjhQMIpDQU5VNEpOUU44VohPSy4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=xPz4UNiUBo-E6zbtV8fIokiHtyV_BcREkJo0YVoSfsRUNjdOTEhGVjhQMIpDQU5VNEpOUU44VohPSy4u)

***REMINDER: Please submit your CDC report and CCURT NH testing survey results***

Providers are reminded to submit your mandatory COVID-19 report at least once a week:

<https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/covid19/index.html>

NH providers are also reminded to submit their COVID test results to CCURT once all staff have been tested here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MT2SCCX>

***Short on PPE? Staff? Let your local EMA know.***

ODM is reminding providers to contact their local EMA if they are running low on PPE or are having staffing concerns.

[Please click here for more information on how to contact your EMA for resources.](#)

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**NOTABLE DATES OR EVENTS**

**CARES Act  
PRF Phase 2  
Distribution Deadline**  
[13 September 2020](#)

**ASHS/OANAC Fall  
Conference**  
**Via live webinars!**  
**Nov 11, 12 and 13**

**Use Renewed ABN By**  
[1 January 2021](#)

**Ohio Provider Relief  
Funds**  
[Application information](#)

[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](#)

[Please click here for the fillable request form.](#)



Health care organizations and providers may be **eligible to receive up to 2% of patient revenue** due to increased expenses and lost revenues (COVID-related).

Apply by August 28, 2020

[hhs.gov/providerrelief](https://hhs.gov/providerrelief)

**HRSA**  
Health Resources & Services Administration

**Deadline extended to September 13.**

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**Our mailing address is:**

The Academy of Senior Health Sciences Inc.  
17 S. High St.  
Suite 770  
Columbus, OH 43215

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