

The Academy Weekly

News & Information for LTC Providers



The Academy of Senior Health Sciences, Inc.

www.seniorhealthsciences.org

Week of 31 October 2021

Ohio News

[Vaccine maintenance program helps meet mandate](#)

[14 CEs. \\$100. Industry Insights. Score!](#)

[Notes from the premier ODH provider COVID monthly meeting](#)

National News

[Nursing homes have until Dec 5 to meet vaccine mandate](#)

[OSHA rule impacts non-Medicare or Medicaid providers](#)

[CMS MLN Connects](#)

Ohio News

Vaccine maintenance program helps meet mandate

Ever since CMS announced that skilled nursing facilities and nursing homes would be required to be vaccinated, the industry has been anxiously awaiting the final regulations. Those regulations were released late last week. (See related story in National News.) One of the requirements is that providers have a plan in place to vaccinate staff and residents. The Ohio Vaccine Maintenance Program can be used to meet that requirement. While the program has been highlighted for providing booster shots to residents, providers can also use the clinics to vaccinate staff. There are just under 200 clinics currently scheduled before November 30. The deadline for unvaccinated staff to have at least one shot is December 05. ([Back to top.](#))

14 CEs. \$100. Industry Insights. Score!

What can be better than 14 BELTSS CEs and learning insights into the nursing home industry for as little as \$100? Okay, maybe the Browns winning the Super Bowl. But when it comes to educational opportunities, the 2021 ASHS Virtual Fall Conference and Annual Meeting is the bees knees. You can earn 7 CEs December 9 (#38958-SS-21) and 7 CEs December 10 (#38959-SS-21) learning about the MDS, NH reimbursement, IPC, Medicaid Policy, Legal Update...and more! [Check out the full line-up and register by visiting our conference webpage.](#) We hope to see you online December 9 and 10! ([Back to top.](#))

Notes from the premier ODH provider COVID monthly meeting

The Ohio Department of Health created a separate monthly meeting with long-term care providers to discuss issues directly related to infection prevention control, vaccinations, testing, or other issues not related directly to survey and certification. The first meeting was held last week. Below are notes from the meeting.

Vaccination: Almost all NHs and ALs have updated their information in the vaccination maintenance program. There are some providers that have not updated their information, but are still submitting requests. ODA will be cleaning the data to determine if there are any providers that have not updated and are not using the program.

Outbreaks: The R3AP program continues to make calls to providers that are experiencing an outbreak. (Two or more resident positive tests.) These calls are to help providers - provide technical assistance, answer any questions, and help with any unmet needs. Providers are encouraged to accept these calls and use the resource as necessary.

Holiday Guidance: The clinical advisory group is working on guidance for the holidays. They are trying to develop one document that can be used across health care settings (hospitals, NHs, ALs). They plan to host a webinar closer to the holidays that will cover visitation, monoclonal antibody treatment and other COVID related issues.

Nursing Home/ Long-Term Care Strike Teams: Ohio is expecting to have \$27 million of ARPA funds available to fund NH/LTC strike teams and infrastructure improvement. The state would have to apply for the funds. They are looking at four possible areas with the goals of assisting the immediate response to COVID-19 and building a long-term infrastructure for infection prevention and control. Areas of focus may include: workforce, technology, workforce support, and program and system enhancements.

If you have any questions or concerns for the next ODH COVID provider meeting, please [contact The Academy](#). ([Back to top.](#))



National News

Nursing homes have until Dec 5 to meet vaccine mandate

CMS released the long awaited emergency rules that mandates COVID vaccines for health care staff employed by providers that must meet CMS's Conditions of Participation in the Medicare or Medicaid programs. Facilities covered by this regulation must establish a policy ensuring all eligible staff have received the first dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine or a one-dose COVID-19 vaccine prior to providing any care, treatment, or other services by December 5, 2021. All eligible staff must have received the necessary shots to be fully vaccinated – either two doses of Pfizer or Moderna or one dose of Johnson & Johnson – by January 4, 2022. The regulation also provides for exemptions based on recognized medical conditions or religious beliefs, observances, or practices. Facilities must develop a similar process or plan for permitting exemptions in alignment with federal law. CMS will ensure compliance with these requirements through established survey and enforcement processes. If a provider or supplier does not meet the requirements, it will be cited by a surveyor as being non-compliant and have an opportunity to return to compliance before additional actions occur. CMS's goal is to bring health care providers into compliance. However, the Agency will not hesitate to use its full enforcement authority to protect the health and safety of patients.

To view the interim final rule with comment period, visit:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection/2021-23831/medicare-and-medicaid-programs-omnibus-covid-19-health-care-staff-vaccination>

To view a list of frequently asked questions,

visit: www.cms.gov/files/document/cms-omnibus-staff-vax-requirements-2021.docx

To view the slides from the COVID-19 Omnibus Vaccine Rule (IFC-6) Stakeholder call, visit: [FINAL - Staff Vax National Stakeholder Slides \(508 Compliant\) \(cms.gov\)](#)

To watch the webinar from the stakeholder call,
visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xHAAozY1aC-Y>

The next stakeholder call will be held on:

Wednesday, November 10

3:30 – 4:30 PM EST

To register in advance, [visit](#).

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Please note CMS can only accommodate 10,000 participants so register early to guarantee your participation.

[\(Back to top.\)](#)

OSHA rule impact non-Medicare or Medicaid providers

CMS is not the only agency to drop a rule with big implications. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) did also. While those providers impacted by the CMS rules need to follow those first, other providers and business not impacted by the CMS rules and with more than 100 employees need to follow the OSHA rules. From the CDC: "The Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is announcing the details of the federal requirement for employers with 100 or more employees to ensure each of their workers is fully vaccinated or tests for COVID-19 on at least a weekly basis. The OSHA rule will also require that these employers provide paid-time for employees to get vaccinated, and ensure all unvaccinated workers wear a face mask in the workplace. **Read more here:** [COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing Emergency Temporary Standard \(ETS\) \(osha.gov\)](#)" [\(Back to top.\)](#)

CMS MLN Connects

[News](#)

- [COVID-19 Vaccines for Children](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine & Monoclonal Antibody Products: Changes for MA Plan Claims Starting January 1, 2022](#)
- [Multi-Factor Authentication Requirement for PECOS](#)

[Events](#)

- [Medicare Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule Private Payor Data Collection & Reporting Webinar – November 10](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Webinar for Rural Communities – November 15](#)

MLN Matters® Articles

- [Manual Updates for Clarification on the Election Statement Addendum and Extension of the Hospice Cap Calculation Methodology](#)
- [Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2022 Inpatient Prospective Payment System \(IPPS\) and Long-Term Care Hospital \(LTCH\) PPS Changes](#)

Publications

- [Medicare Billing: 837P & Form CMS-1500](#)

Multimedia

- [PAC Quality Reporting Programs: Updated 3-Course Training Series for Section GG](#)

[View this edition online](#)

[\(Back to top.\)](#)



ODDS AND ENDS

Next CMS Chicago "Real Time"

Join the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Chicago Local Engagement and Administration (LEA) for our series, **"Real Time" with CMS Chicago on November 10 at 10 AM EST**. This series feature 30 minute webinars and calls with our partners and stakeholders to share updates on many of the topics we've heard you express an interest. Wednesdays topic will be **"Special Edition: Recently Released"** a high-level overview of CMS recently announced policies

NOTABLE DATES OR EVENTS

[ASHS Fall Conference](#)
9 and 10 December

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

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

and programs. Please click here to

register: https://cms.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_82ehNdasQyqyUhEm6JvuHw Registration closes at 8 AM the day of the webinar.

[Modules](#)

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

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

[Follow on Twitter](#)

[Friend on Facebook](#)

[Follow on Instagram](#)

Copyright © 2021 The Academy of Senior Health Sciences Inc., All rights reserved.
Membership.

*The content of this newsletter is for informational purposes only. The information is only as accurate as its sources and may change at any time. The newsletter may contain references to policy, regulations, rules, and laws and is for informational purposes only. **Please consult the appropriate professional before making any decisions.***

Our mailing address is:

The Academy of Senior Health Sciences Inc.

17 S. High St.

Suite 770

Columbus, OH 43215

The Academy of Senior Health Sciences, Inc. is a preferred provider of BELTSS continuing education units.
