

Executive Deputy Commissioner Roger Bearden announced that OPWDD just received CMS's guidance on the new FMAP amount. It is 26 pages long and quite technical. Here is the link in case you need something to read. However, OPWDD will be sending something out to the field in the near future.

<https://www.medicaid.gov/Federal-Policy-Guidance/Downloads/smd21003.pdf>

Data

OPWDD's website now contains data on the effects of the coronavirus at the following site: <https://opwdd.ny.gov/coronavirus-guidance>

At the bottom of the page are links to the latest data as of 5/12

- <https://opwdd.ny.gov/new-confirmed-cases-among-residents-group-homes>
- <https://opwdd.ny.gov/cumulative-confirmed-cases-and-deaths-group-homes>
- <https://opwdd.ny.gov/new-confirmed-cases-among-staff-group-homes>

Tamika Black also provided a summary of the data. She also explained that some fluctuations in the weekly data is due to previous weeks' data now being included in the reports.

As of May 5, 2021, there have been 10,550 confirmed COVID-19 positive cases statewide. Of those that tested positive, 7,104 individuals resided in certified residential programs. A total of 666 individuals statewide who tested positive have passed. A total of 14,919 staff were reported as confirmed COVID-19 positive.

As of May 12, 2021, there have been 10,607 confirmed COVID-19 positive cases statewide. Of those that tested positive, 7,120 individuals resided in certified residential programs. A total of 667 individuals statewide who tested positive have passed. A total of 15,016 staff were reported as confirmed COVID-19 positive.

Positive Cases: The peak of COVID-19 positive cases occurred with over 700 positive cases reported the week of January 3, 2021. There have been 39 new cases reported the week of May 2nd.

Hospitalizations: Peak hospitalizations occurred with over 300 new admissions the week of March 29, 2020. Nine (9) new hospital admissions were reported the week of May 2nd.

Fatalities: Peak fatalities occurred with over 100 cases reported the week of April 5, 2020. No new deaths were reported for the week of May 2nd.

As of May 10, 2021, vaccination data is available for the five distinct cohorts of individuals and staff for which OPWDD is collecting information, as follows:

For individuals living in residential (with 99.8% programs reporting), 83.7% of the total individuals in certified residential have received at least one vaccine dose.

For staff working in residential (with 99.8% programs reporting), 30.3% of the total staff in certified residential have received at least one vaccine dose.

For staff associated with day and waiver services, excluding residential and family care (with 84.0% programs reporting), 29.0% of the total staff in day and waiver programs have received at least one vaccine dose.

For adults (18 and over) receiving day, waiver and case management services, excluding residential and family care (100% programs reporting), 32.8% of the total individuals have received at least one vaccine dose.

For care managers, 46.5% have received at least one vaccine dose.

Waiver Amendment Update

Kate Marlay shared the latest news about the Waiver amendments, all of which will be shared soon in a new guidance memo from OPWDD. The major updates included:

- **Flexibilities for ICFs have finally been approved**, including services provided during daytime hours in residences.
- Flexibilities for services that OPWDD has previously announced have now received Federal approval
- A "Disaster State Plan Amendment" was approved on 5/13

Kate also stated that the next Amendment will be considered a "permanent amendment" and should include rules on Com Hab in residences, respite services and the use of Telehealth. For now, OPWDD will continue to operate under Appendix K Flexibilities. Kate also said that CMS is open for additional flexibilities under Appendix K. A memo is forthcoming.

Quarantine Updates.

Head Counsel Willow Baer acknowledged the frustrations regarding the current quarantine rules and expects changes will be announced very soon.

Several members of the stakeholder group expressed frustration about New York's inability to be in step with CDC recommendations and that there is no "single public health strategy" in NY.

In regard to the CDC announcement earlier in the day regarding people who are fully vaccinated no longer requiring to wear a mask, nor to social distance, except in "health care facilities" and most forms of public transportation, it was stated that most settings in the OPWDD system are not health care facilities, however there needs to be something official in writing from OPWDD.