

FROM: Tom McAlvanah

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At the OPWDD Stakeholder meeting yesterday, the Commissioner and Willow Baer chaired the gathering. The main focus was on the data that is listed below, and discussion about the Delta variant was very prominent. During the discussion, it was noted that the call to have all staff vaccinated was desirable and yet not attainable so far. Families expressed understandable worry and asked when and if mandatory vaccinations and testing could be forthcoming. The OPWDD staff demurred and spoke to the many reasons why it could not be accomplished at this time. They did comment that they will be monitoring mask mandates as they are issued via CDC and/or State DOH. Incentivizing staff continues to remain their policy position. Break through cases are beginning to rise statewide, although not in large numbers so far. All will continue to watch the increase in cases. The Commissioner reminded all agencies to remind their staff to document positive cases in their reports, but noted that all are feeling 'report fatigue.'

Finally, Willow reported that OPWDD was finalizing some ADMS related to post-pandemic guidance, including Return to Work protocols.

COVID Update

As of August 4, 2021, there have been 10,790 confirmed COVID-19 positive cases statewide. Of those that tested positive, 7,167 individuals resided in certified residential programs. A total of 671 individuals statewide who tested positive have passed. A total of 15,458 staff were reported as confirmed COVID-19 positive.

As of August 11, 2021, there have been 10,828 confirmed COVID-19 positive cases statewide. Of those that tested positive, 7,181 individuals resided in certified residential programs. A total of 671 individuals statewide who tested positive have passed. A total of 15,579 staff were reported as confirmed COVID-19 positive.

COVID Trends

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 33 new cases reported the week of August 1st.

Hospitalizations: Peak hospitalizations occurred with over 350 new admissions the week of March 29, 2020. Five (5) new hospital admissions were reported the week of August 1st.

Fatalities: Peak fatalities occurred with over 100 cases reported the week of April 5, 2020. No new deaths were reported for the week of August 1st.

Vaccination Update

As of August 6, 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 100% programs reporting), 88% of the total individuals in certified residential have received at least one vaccine dose.

For staff working in residential (with 100% programs reporting), 34.6% 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 84.5% programs reporting), 32.9% 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), 41.8% of the total individuals have received at least one vaccine dose.

For care managers, 52.4% have received at least one vaccine dose.