

January 31, 2025

Re: Pandemic Programs Update

Dear Administrators of Assisted Living Facilities and Nursing Homes,

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ohio Department of Aging (ODA) coordinated and directed support to long-term care facilities for tests, vaccines, therapeutics, staffing, supplies, and more. Since the expiration of the federal public health emergency in 2023, COVID-19 vaccines and tests have become available through insurance providers and pharmacies, and service requests have dropped significantly.

Hence, the following program changes will become effective Wednesday, April 30, 2025:

- State-Supported Testing
COVID-19 rapid antigen tests can be ordered through the [ODA Care Center Portal](#) until April 30, 2025. You must be opted into the state-supported testing program with an active CLIA Certificate of Waiver on file to order. After April 30, you are encouraged to work directly with your facility's pharmacy provider or community pharmacies to secure these tests.
- State-Supported Vaccines
COVID-19 vaccine clinics can be scheduled through the [ODA Care Center Portal](#) until April 30, 2025. You must be opted into the state-supported vaccine maintenance program to schedule. After April 30, you are encouraged to work directly with your facility's pharmacy provider or community pharmacies to secure these vaccines. Also, stay informed with [current vaccine guidance](#) issued by the CDC.
- State-Supported Crisis Staffing
Short-term contracted strike teams of qualified nurses, state-tested nurse aides, or other workers deployed to facilities experiencing a COVID-19 outbreak can be requested through the [ODA Care Center Portal](#) through April 30, 2025. After April 30, you are encouraged to research independent solutions to supplement staffing needs.

It has been an honor to provide support during this historic time, and ODA remains committed to promoting high quality of care and high quality of life for older Ohioans. Should you have questions or need assistance, please contact ODA's Regional Rapid Response Assistance Program Team (R3AP) at R3APrequest@age.ohio.gov or 1-855-732-7632.

Sincerely,



Ursel J. McElroy
Director, Ohio Department of Aging

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