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## Governor DeWine signs emergency order regarding Medicaid pharmacy administration of COVID vaccines and COVID health care isolation centers

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**Columbus, Ohio** – Governor Mike DeWine signed Executive Order 2020-42D yesterday as an emergency rule to preserve the public health by providing the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) the flexibility to ensure eligible individuals can quickly and efficiently receive health care services during the COVID-19 state of emergency. The order addresses the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Rules 5160-3-80 and 5160-9-05:

- [OAC Rule 5160-9-05](#) allows ODM to adopt Medicare reimbursement rates for COVID vaccine administration. Additionally, it authorizes ODM to reimburse authorized pharmacies for COVID vaccine administration at nursing facilities and other community settings.
- [OAC Rule 5160-3-80](#) extends the use of existing emergency reimbursement rates for people covered by Medicaid and receiving COVID recovery support at state-designated health care isolation centers\* (HCIC).

“This first order allows us to reimburse for administration of the COVID vaccine in Ohio’s more than 950 nursing homes, assisted living residences, facilities for individuals with developmental disabilities, and continuing care retirement communities, as well as to adjust quickly to other vaccine supply uncertainties,” said Maureen Corcoran, director of ODM. “Second, ensuring we have beds in place to support ready-to-release hospitalized COVID patients gives Ohio’s hospitals much needed relief as cases surge across the state.”

Executive order 2020-42D is effective for 120-day as of December 23, 2020, or upon adoption by the **Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review**, whichever is sooner.

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\*A health care isolation center (HCIC) is a setting that provides a prescribed COVID-19 level of care or a quarantine level of care. The HCIC serves individuals ready to leave hospitals but unable to return to their prior residence due to medical or quarantine needs, and those who are unable to receive needed care in their congregate settings but fall below a hospital-type level of care. HCICs operate under the approval of the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) and must comply with the rules, guidelines, and protocols related to COVID-19 issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, ODM, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and ODH.