



Seneca County EMA Situation Report #127
COVID-19 Response
February 11th, 2021
County EOC Status: Monitoring
State EOC: Activated

Distribution List: Villages, Townships, Seneca County Elected Officials, City of Tiffin Elected Officials, City of Fostoria Elected Officials, Fire Chiefs, Law Enforcement, Seneca County Education Contacts and LEPC/HS and Mental Health Recovery Services

Ohio

Confirmed Cases: 805,971 (+4,466 in the last 2 days)
Probable: 125,466
Confirmed Deaths: 11,104*
Probable Deaths: 1,473

***ODH is currently reconciling COVID-19 deaths, including about 650 in today's count. This primarily impacts deaths occurring from November to December 2020. Deaths will be shown by the date of death. Newly reported deaths will be higher during the next few days as ODH completes this reconciliation.**

Seneca County: LEVEL 3 (High Incidence) PUBLIC EMERGENCY [Ohio's Public Health Advisory System](#)
Metrics (as of 02/11)

Total Cases: 4,669 (+19)
Active Cases: 83 (+12)
Deaths: 124 (+/-0)
Recovered: 4,168 (+7)
Hospitalized: 7 (+/-0)

Resources:

Ohio ODH: coronavirus.ohio.gov

CDC: [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)

Seneca County General Health District: senecahealthdistrict.org

Executive Summary

GOVERNOR: Governor DeWine announced today that hospitalizations continue to go down. As a result, Governor DeWine stated that the statewide curfew officially expired at Noon today. In the future, a curfew may be needed, but the Governor is hopeful that if we continue to do what we have been doing, Ohio will not need a curfew.

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VACCINE: Over 50% of Ohio's COVID-19 deaths have been in our nursing homes, which is why the decision was made to get those citizens vaccinated ASAP. The strategy has worked, and the number of COVID-19 cases have been dropping dramatically. In order to reduce the number of lives lost to COVID-19, the Ohio Department of Health and health care providers are to prioritize people with developmental disabilities and severe medical conditions for vaccination. It is estimated that over 12,000 individuals in this category have been vaccinated.

Next week, Ohioans with certain conditions they were born with or those who were diagnosed in childhood and carried into adulthood will be able to begin receiving COVID-19 vaccines. Individuals with these conditions face a significantly higher risk for adverse COVID-19 outcomes.

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY SYSTEM: The Public Health Advisory System map has been updated, however, there is no change from the past two weeks. The state is red, with the exception of Gallia, Hocking, Monroe, and Vinton counties, which remain at orange.

TRAVEL ADVISORY: There are five states on the latest Ohio travel advisory. Ohio recommends against traveling to the following states: Iowa; Idaho; Kansas; South Dakota; and Mississippi.

TESTING LOCATIONS: DeWine has started a walk-up/drive-up testing initiative with the Ohio Association of Community Health Centers and their affiliate members and the Ohio National Guard. These sites will also include other local community-based organizations i.e., faith-based organizations, community centers, food pantries, etc.

Testing for this initiative will be available for individuals with or without symptoms. The test has no out-of-pocket cost to the patient and individuals of any age are able to access the test. Minors will need signed consent of a parent/guardian.

For an exhaustive list of all the locations in the state that are offering testing, [click here](#).

Seneca County Commissioners: www.senecacountyohio.gov

The Seneca County Board of Commissioners received a positive update from Tiffin-Seneca United Way Executive Director Kari Steele Thursday morning, about a successful partnership to help those in need with CARES Act Funding.

In October, the commissioners made \$1.25 million of its federal CARES Act funding available to several agencies, in an effort to get funding directly to those in the county negatively impacted by COVID-19. Tiffin-Seneca United Way was joined by , Seneca County Department of Job and Family Services, Tiffin-Seneca Economic Partnership, Fostoria Economic Development Corporation and Great Lakes Community Action Partnership to administer programs to distribute these funds. The programs expired at the end of



last year, but through additional funding from the city of Tiffin and several townships, almost \$1.5 million was disbursed to county residents.

The United Way used about \$219,000 of its \$275,000 allocation to assist those in need in the community. Steele thanked the commissioners for partnering with her organization and explained that 154 people across 92 households were served by the United Way.

Assistance provided by the United Way includes help with utility bills, mortgage and rent payments, property taxes. The agency also provided \$250 Kroger gift cards for transportation and food costs. The United Way worked with First Call For Help to provide much-needed services to people who were out of work due to COVID-19. The average household received three months of rent/mortgage assistance, allowing families time to improve their financial situation or helping them as they awaited unemployment payments, Steele said during her report.

Commissioner Mike Kerschner thanked Steele and her agency for the quick turnaround.

In other action, Kerschner introduced a draft of a letter that he proposed to be sent to Ohio Senate President Matt Huffman and House Speaker Robert Cupp to formalize the board's support for State Senator Bill Reineke's Ohio Senate Bill 52, or the "Reineke Referendum." The proposed bill would provide a vote or referendum for citizens on industrial-scale solar and wind projects.

The letter urges state legislators to support the bill, as it "does an excellent job of ensuring that the voices of the citizens are heard concerning solar and wind projects of significant scale and consequence."

The letter states that the bill would provide appropriate local control to those who could be most impacted by the projects. You can read the letter on our website. The board unanimously agreed to send the letter to state legislators.

In other business, the commissioners approved a resolution to amend the county's indigent counsel fee schedule following a Dec. 22, 2020 opinion from the Supreme Court of Ohio.

According to the decision, cases in which indigent parents are facing the termination of parental rights via adoption proceedings in probate courts are eligible for indigent counsel reimbursement from the state.

At the urging of the Ohio Public Defender's Office, the board established indigent defense reimbursement rates in Seneca County Probate Court for \$60 an hour, with a fee cap set at \$1,000, in these types of cases. The decision is retroactive to Jan. 29, per a memo from the OPD's Office.

Also during the session, Seneca County EMS Medical Director Dr. Mike Fitzpatrick addressed the board related to ongoing discussions to improve the county EMS system. He encouraged the commissioners to support the plan outlined by Emergency Services Director Ken Majors.

"I support Ken's plan, please follow it," he said. "If we hire four paramedics, we need two crews. By placing one unit in the east and one in the west, we would be able to cover Seneca County pretty completely."

Another piece of Majors' plan is to provide part-time assistance to volunteers, in addition to the paid crews.

Fitzpatrick told the commissioners that to be successful, paid personnel should be paired in crews and not sent to be teamed up with volunteers. Fitzpatrick also said it is not a good idea to allow two-person crews that include a firefighter-EMR.



“Firefighters may be great at firefighting, and they are wonderful people who sacrifice a lot ... but they don’t know medicine and would be of limited help to EMTs or paramedics on runs,” he said. “It is analogous to me asking an electrician to do my plumbing.”

Fitzpatrick said a three-person ambulance crew that includes a firefighter-EMR as a driver would be more acceptable.

“I feel the best arrangement if we can afford it, is to have two paramedics and an EMT as a driver,” he said.

There are three levels of EMT certification (from least training to most): EMT-Basic, EMT-Advanced and Paramedic.

According to the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians, firefighter-EMRs (Emergency Medical Responders) have the knowledge and skills necessary to provide immediate lifesaving interventions while awaiting additional EMS resources to arrive.

During new business, the board approved:

- * A \$10,000 supplemental appropriation to the General Fund for other expenses.
- * A \$20,631.90 supplemental appropriation to the DRETAC Fund for other expenses.
- * A \$20,000 supplemental appropriation to the General Fund for indigent counsel, related to the previously mentioned change to reimbursable cases in the county probate court.
- * \$98,490 and \$160,000 fund transfers from the General Fund to the Soil and Water Fund.
- * Establishing the Impaired Driving Enforcement Program, the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program and the Drugged Driving Enforcement Program on behalf of the sheriff’s office.
- * Setting Thursday, February 25th at 10:15 a.m. to receive sealed bids for the CR 56 and CR 38 superstructure replacement (prestressed box beams).
- * The fiscal year 2021 Airport Improvement Program pre-application for airfield drainage improvements and Taxiway “C” pavement rehab at the county airport.
- * The fiscal year 2022-2031 Airport Capital Improvement Plan.

Seneca County General Health District: www.senecahealthdept.org

Seneca County Health Commissioner will produce Facebook Live videos with updates from the Health District. This will occur at 10:30 on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. Videos will be archived on Facebook and can be viewed live on the Health Department’s and Commissioner’s FB pages.

Emergency Management Agency senecacountyema.org

K-12 Educational Staff will begin getting vaccinated this week. Seneca County schools are scheduled in the week 4 schedule starting February 22nd. The schedules by week are available at <https://senecacountyema.org/covid-19/vaccination-information> or you can see them in the attachments to the email.

Sign up for Vaccination Notifications on Seneca County WENS [here](#).

What do you do if you have symptoms of COVID? Contact your doctor. If you don’t have a doctor, but have insurance, check to see if your insurance has tele-health and see a doctor. If your

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doctor does not recommend a COVID test but you need one, call the Tiffin Community Health Center, 419.455.8140 and make an appointment.

PCR swab tests may take 4-6 days to return results as they must be sent to a lab and be cultured to test for the virus. Rapid tests have a much shorter return time, but are in short supply. No test is 100% accurate. The test relies on, among other things, the amount of virus in your system at the time of the test. Tests are available at the following locations:

PCR (4-6 day return):

- Mercy Health-Tiffin Hospital (with Drs. order)
- ProMedica Hospital (with Drs. order)
- Tiffin Community Health Center (Tele-health or Dr. on site)

Rapid Test (6-8 hour return):

- Urgent Care (Tele-health or Dr. onsite)
- CVS

The Public Health Advisory System shows that Seneca County has met 5 of the 7 indicators needed to change the level. Wearing a mask, washing your hands and/or using hand sanitizer and not congregating with friends or family not living in your household is the best way to stem the tide of this virus. This is inconvenient and difficult, but necessary.

The EMA will continue to update our partners on the numbers twice a week on Mondays and Thursdays. Please continue to send your information to be shared with our partners to jspahr@senecacountyohio.gov.

Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio: hcno.org

Please see the attached COVID-19 Data Report for **02/05/21**. Throughout the COVID-19 response, HCNO will release updated reports regularly using this format.

Key Points:

- Regionally, there are 250 COVID-19 patients with 162 (65%) in Lucas County hospitals, 35 (14%) in Allen County hospitals, and the remaining 53 (21%) from other NW Ohio counties
- Regionally, there are 66 COVID-19 Critical Care patients with 42 (64%) in Lucas County hospitals, 10 (15%) in Allen County hospitals, and the remaining 14 (21%) from other NW Ohio counties
- Regionally, there are 50 COVID-19 patients on ventilators
- According to ODH dashboard, Region 1 has begun 112,721 vaccines as of 02/05/2021
- Out of 38 regional hospitals reporting, 12 hospitals reported strained or critical nursing shortages (32%)
- The statewide median age for COVID-19 is 42 years old
- The statewide 7-day average positivity rate for testing is 7.1%

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Seneca County Regional Planning: senecarpc.org

Red Cross: www.redcross.org

For a limited time, your blood donation will include an antibody test with results returned to you through your Red Cross Donor App. Go to redcrossblood.org for more information.

Blood Collection Screeners Needed: COVID-19 has disrupted our daily lives, but the need for lifesaving blood hasn't changed. To help protect everyone's safety, we have a need for Donor Screener volunteers (ages 18+) to take the temperatures of blood donors entering American Red Cross blood drives or donation centers.

In this volunteer position you can volunteer just once or multiple times, the choice is yours! Apply now at www.redcross.org/volunteer

For more information or questions, please contact Melanie Collins at Melanie.Collins4@redcross.org or 330-204-6615.

Mental Health and Recovery Board of Seneca, Sandusky and Wyandot Counties: www.mhrsbsw.org

City of Tiffin: www.tiffinohio.gov

Job and Family Services: <https://djfs.co.seneca.oh.us/>

UNEMPLOYMENT: Ohio saw 140,444 initial applications for unemployment compensation last week – a development the Department of Job and Family Services views as likely linked to fraudulent activity.

The total of new claims filed during the week ended Saturday represents a 194% increase from the prior week. The agency said all new claims will be reviewed, which will lead to delays in processing some legitimate applications.

“ODFJS is investigating all claims that were flagged for potential fraud and taking steps to implement more robust identity verification in the traditional unemployment program. Identity theft and fraudulent unemployment claims are a widespread national challenge,” the department said in a statement.

Education: <http://www.ncoesc.org/>

Tiffin-Seneca Public Library: <http://tiffinsenecalibrary.org>

Economic Recovery (Seneca County): <https://www.tiffinchamber.com/coronavirus-resources>

Tiffin-Seneca Economic Partnership: <https://senecasuccess.wordpress.com/tag/tsep/>

This situational report will be sent around 4 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays and as needed on other weekdays and weekends.

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If you wish to update or add information to this report, please send it to the EMA at jspahr@senecacountyohio.gov by 2:30 p.m. each publishing day.

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