



Seneca County EMA Situation Report #129
COVID-19 Response
February 18th, 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: 816,057 (+2,592 in the last 2 days)
Probable: 131,332
Confirmed Deaths: 14,132*
Probable Deaths: 2,479

***The Bureau of Infectious Diseases and the Bureau of Vital Statistics continue to reconcile death data. This process is ongoing as the teams complete a deep review of the data. This review will result in some fluctuations in death numbers moving forward.**

Seneca County: LEVEL 3 (High Incidence) PUBLIC EMERGENCY [Ohio's Public Health Advisory System](#)
Metrics (as of 02/18)

Total Cases: 4,698 (+24)
Active Cases: 86 (-6)
Deaths: 126 (+2)
Recovered: 4,197 (+32)
Hospitalized: 6 (-1)

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 that Ohio has launched the COVID-19 Maintenance Program for nursing homes and assisted living facilities. DeWine says that this will help continue the flow of the vaccine at these facilities for new staff and residents that arrive. Ohio Department of Aging Director Ursel McElroy stated that the program will allow nursing homes/assisted living facilities to check-in and tell the state what their needs are.

Governor DeWine discussed that he is getting a lot of requests of what certain spring events might look like, such as prom and graduation. He says that he plans to sit down and talk more about what those events might look like. DeWine stated that one thing they know from a year ago to today is the

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“power of the mask” which allows people to do more and make it more likely to participate in events like prom and graduation.

Dr. Bruce Vanderhoff reminded Ohioans that it is very important that we don't declare victory too quickly. He said that vaccines are working very well, but our national vaccination efforts need more time. We have to keep up our work of preventing spread through masking and distancing. Even with new, more infectious variants, we know what we need to do to improve our lives as we head into spring. Dr. Vanderhoff stated that masking and distancing work, and they will be the key to living our lives normally.

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY SYSTEM: The Public Health Advisory System map has been updated, however, there is no change from the past three 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: Idaho; Kansas; Alabama; South Dakota; and Iowa.

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 an update about Seneca Regional Planning Commission Thursday morning.

Commission Executive Director Charlene Watkins provided a 2020 year in review PowerPoint presentation and also discussed goals and objectives for this year.

Watkins said the agency helped to bring in about \$850,000 in grant funding in 2020 to help various organizations throughout the county.

Grants included \$357,059.47 for road improvements through the Ohio Public Works

Commission Issue 1 program, leading to improvements to township roads across 15 different projects; \$154,712.70 through the Home Sewage Treatment System grant program, which led to the installation of 15 new septic systems, with designs approved for six others; \$83,380 through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to help fund the creation of the Attica Area Veterans Memorial Park; and \$150,000 through an AEP grant that will lead to two electric vehicle charging stations in City Lot No. 7 in downtown Tiffin. SRPC also helped use Community Development Block Grant funding of about \$105,000 to assist with several improvement

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projects including work done on sidewalks in Bloomville (\$55,757.50), for homelessness prevention across the county (\$9,400) and for park upgrades in Melmore, including the addition of a vault restroom (\$20,775).

Watkins said the organization also continued to administer the sewer district, launched a community development initiative entitled “See Seneca Grow” and managed the Revolving Loan Fund for two projects in concert with Air Cooled Engines Plus and OCECO.

Watkins said the organization hopes to continue to field a quality team in 2021, as they work to update the agency’s strategic plan with a focus on communicating with partners throughout the community.

In other business, County Administrator Stacy Wilson provided an update on the county’s sales tax revenue. The sales tax represents nearly half of General Fund revenue for the county’s budget in most years.

The February report, which includes sales tax receipts from most of November and some of December, was reported as \$817,367.53. This represents a 5.9-percent increase from the February 2020 report. Through two months this year, sales tax income is up 8.8 percent compared to last year.

During the budget process last year, the commissioners were conservative with the 2021 General Fund budget, not adding salary increases because of the uncertainty of the economic situation due to COVID-19.

Previously this year, the commissioners said they would re-evaluate the situation after the first quarter of the year. With the positive sales tax reports in January and February, Commissioner Mike Kerschner suggested moving up that timeline to provide salary increases to county employees who are paid out of the General Fund. The board agreed to consider taking action on this matter during next week’s board session. Commissioner Anthony Paradiso emphasized that any increase would be provided within the salary line of the budget of General Fund departments. From there, elected officials and department heads could use the additional money how they see fit.

During new business, the board approved all resolutions from the pre-meeting release, including the OK of a \$7,926 TEACH grant for the Seneca County Museum. The board also set March 18 at 10:15 a.m. to receive sealed bids for a farm lease of about 146 acres of county-owned land in Eden Township.

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.

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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 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 [02/12-02/19](#). Throughout the COVID-19 response, HCNO will release updated reports regularly using this format.

Key Points:

- Regionally, there are 194 COVID-19 patients with 127 (66%) in Lucas County hospitals, 28 (14%) in Allen County hospitals, and the remaining 39 (20%) from other NW Ohio counties
- Regionally, there are 56 COVID-19 Critical Care patients with 40 (71%) in Lucas County hospitals, 10 (18%) in Allen County hospitals, and the remaining 6 (11%) from other NW Ohio counties

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- Regionally, there are 42 COVID-19 patients on ventilators
- According to ODH dashboard, Region 1 has begun 132,362 vaccines as of 02/12/2021
- Out of 38 regional hospitals reporting, 14 hospitals reported strained or critical nursing shortages (37%)
- The statewide median age for COVID-19 is 42 years old
- The statewide 7-day average positivity rate for testing is 5.8%

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: Ohioans filed 147,002 initial applications for unemployment compensation last week – a total that state officials believe has been artificially inflated by fraud. The Department of Job and Family Services reported at least 33,000 of the claims, or about 22%, have been flagged as suspicious.

Last week marked the second-consecutive week new claims have topped 140,000 amid growing concerns over the prevalence of fraudulent applications in the state's unemployment compensation system.

The U.S. Department of Labor reported 861,000 initial claims were filed nationwide last week, up 13,000 compared with the previous week's revised total.

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

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

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

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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.

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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