



**Seneca County EMA Situation Report #131**

**COVID-19 Response**

**February 25th, 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: 826,149 (+3,058 in the last 5 days)**  
**Probable: 136,255**  
**Confirmed Deaths: 14,573\***  
**Probable Deaths: 2,552**

**\*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 02/22)**

**Total Cases: 4,755 (+19)**  
**Active Cases: 43 (+1)**  
**Deaths: 128 (+/-0)**  
**Recovered: 4,290 (+18)**  
**Hospitalized: 0 (-3)**

**Resources:**

**Ohio ODH: [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov)**

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

**Seneca County General Health District: [senecahealthdistrict.org](https://senecahealthdistrict.org)**

**Executive Summary**

**GOVERNOR:** Governor DeWine announced that sporting and entertainment events will be able to reopen with 25% maximum indoor capacity and 30% maximum outdoor capacity provided they follow established precautions. This is a start. If the situation improves in spring/summer, this could be expanded.

Some required precautions will include: mandatory mask wearing for employees/customers; spectator pathways that allow for social distancing; seating in pods of no more than 6 people, recommended to be of the same household (pods must be separated by at least 6 feet). General

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admission (laws, standing room, infields) will be allowed as long as masks are worn, and 6-foot distancing can be marked/maintained.

Guidance will be released soon on proms, banquet centers, wedding receptions, fairs, festivals, and parades.

Beginning March 1, restrictions will be lifted on visitors to Ohio's behavioral health hospitals. There will be certain safety measures in place to protect patients and staff, such as mask requirements, hand hygiene protocols, and time limits.

Governor DeWine gave an update that decreasing trends continue among COVID hospitalizations in Ohio overall, and especially for those 80+. In December, this group made up more than 25% of COVID hospitalizations. This month, that number has dropped to about 18%. Ohio is also seeing a decline in COVID cases among nursing home residents. We had 369 new nursing home cases this past week, compared to 2,832 new cases in one week in December.

Governor DeWine announced the next steps to ease some of Ohio's public health measures, while mitigating the spread of COVID-19. The coming months will be critical, as new variants of the virus spread throughout the nation and Ohio, but the Governor is optimistic. The goal for Ohioans will be for all of us to get back to where we want to be – what our lives were before the pandemic. Governor DeWine mentioned that there is a bridge back to that life, and that bridge is built on vaccinations and continuing safety protocols.

Lastly, there is a new section added to the [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov) website. This section will highlight the efforts to achieve equity in our pandemic response to ensure every Ohioan has access to the resources needed to protect against COVID-19.

**VACCINE:** Next week, Ohio will have 310,000 first doses, so there will be more vaccine provider sites – including some Meijer and Walmart sites, and more independent pharmacies. RiteAid, Kroger, CVS, Walgreens, local health departments, and hospitals will also have more doses. Governor DeWine stated that he believes, based on the information from the federal government, that once the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is available, Ohio will have another 91,000 doses during the first week.

**PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY SYSTEM:** The Public Health Advisory System map has been updated. For the past several weeks, the map has stayed the same. This week, there are four counties moving to orange, which brings the total to 8 orange counties (Williams; Mercer; Shelby; Holmes; Monroe; Hocking; Vinton; and Gallia). This shows that case rates for these counties are starting to drop – which is good news.

**TRAVEL ADVISORY:** There are five states on the latest Ohio travel advisory, which are the same five from last week. Ohio recommends against traveling to the following states: South Dakota; Kansas; Alabama; Iowa; and Idaho.

**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.

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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](http://www.senecacountyohio.gov)

**Seneca County General Health District:** [www.senecahealthdept.org](http://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](http://senecacountyema.org)

K-12 Educational Staff will begin getting vaccinated this week. Seneca County schools are scheduled in the week 4 schedule starting February 22<sup>nd</sup>. 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

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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](mailto:jspahr@senecacountyohio.gov).

**Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio:** [hcno.org](http://hcno.org)

**Seneca County Regional Planning:** [senecarpc.org](http://senecarpc.org)

**Red Cross:** [www.redcross.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.redcross.org/volunteer)

For more information or questions, please contact Melanie Collins at [Melanie.Collins4@redcross.org](mailto:Melanie.Collins4@redcross.org) or 330-204-6615.

**Mental Health and Recovery Board of Seneca, Sandusky and Wyandot Counties:** [www.mhrsbsw.org](http://www.mhrsbsw.org)

**City of Tiffin:** [www.tiffinohio.gov](http://www.tiffinohio.gov)

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

UNEMPLOYMENT: Ohioans filed 101,825 initial applications for unemployment compensation last week, although the Department of Job and Family Services believes that total is inflated by fraudulent claims. Of those claims, at least 29,000 have been flagged as suspicious.

Last week marked the third consecutive week new claims have hit six figures in the state, as well as the third straight week the agency has pointed to fraud as playing a large role in boosting the number of applications filed.

ODFJS reported residents filed 322,542 continued jobless claims last week, up from 307,923 the previous week. The agency said it has sent more than \$8.6 billion in unemployment compensation payments to more than 941,000 Ohioans over the last 49 weeks.

The U.S. Department of Labor reported 730,000 claims were filed nationwide last week, down 111,000 from the previous week's revised level.

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

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](mailto:jspahr@senecacountyohio.gov) by 2:30 p.m. each publishing day.**

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