



**Seneca County EMA Situation Report #137**

**COVID-19 Response**

**March 18th, 2021**

**County EOC Status: Monitoring**

**State EOC: Partially 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:** 845,116 (+2,389 in the last 2 days)  
**Probable:** 148,280  
**Confirmed Ohio Resident deaths:** 17,992  
**Deaths in Ohio:** 18,114

**Seneca County: LEVEL 3 (High Incidence) PUBLIC EMERGENCY [Ohio's Public Health Advisory System](#)**

**Metrics (as of 03/15)**

**Total Cases:** 4,928 (+25)  
**Active Cases:** 81 (+17)  
**Deaths:** 128 (+/-0)  
**Recovered:** 4,719 (+9)  
**Hospitalized:** 7 (+2)

**Resources:**

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

**CDC:** [CDC.gov](http://CDC.gov)

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

**Executive Summary**

**GOVERNOR:** This week, Ohio's long-term care facilities reported just 70 new COVID-19 cases. That is compared with the 157 new cases reported the previous week, and the 2,832 new cases reported at the peak of the pandemic in December. The Governor touted the positive impact of the vaccine along with wearing masks, social distancing, and cleaning within the nursing homes.

Governor DeWine announced that the Ohio's Bureau of Workers' Compensation expanded eligibility to the COVID-19 Indoor Air Quality Assistance Program to: Intermediate care facilities; Hospices; Senior centers; Adult care facilities; Waiver settings (group homes); and Substance use treatment centers.

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**VACCINES:** Tomorrow morning, Friday, March 19th, vaccine eligibility will open for those who are 40 and older and those who have cancer, chronic kidney disease, COPD, heart disease, or obesity. On March 29th, vaccine eligibility will open for all Ohioans 16 and older who want to receive the vaccine.

The Pfizer vaccine is the only shot that has the FDA's Emergency Use Authorization for 16 & 17-year-olds, but the administration is working with providers to indicate if they have the Pfizer vaccine available so parents know where they can take their teens to receive the vaccine.

There has been an increase in spread of COVID-19 through new strains that appear to be more contagious, but the administration is confident with the efficacy and increased distribution of the vaccine.

**ELECTIONS:** Congresswoman Marcia Fudge has resigned as the representative for the 11th Congressional District of Ohio to become the U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. The governor has scheduled the election on the 11th Congressional District to hold a special election on November 2, 2021, to fill this vacancy. The primary will be held on August 3, 2021.

**PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY SYSTEM:** The Public Health Advisory System map has been updated. Ten counties are dropping a level this week. Six counties moved from red to orange as their cases per capita dropped below 100 over two weeks. There also are four counties moving from orange to yellow because their cases per capita dropped to below 50.

**VACCINATION SCHEDULING TOOL:** Ohio's centralized scheduling website is now available at [gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov). The website will serve as a singular location for Ohioans to confirm that they are eligible to be vaccinated, identify nearby providers, and schedule their appointments.

The Ohio Department of Health will continue to work directly with vaccine providers to integrate their current systems into the statewide system. Providers will be expected to use this system or another electronic scheduling system that interfaces this portal.

The centralized scheduling website will also be used for scheduling appointments at the mass vaccination clinics, including the FEMA site in Cleveland.

**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](#).

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**Seneca County Commissioners:** [www.senecacountyohio.gov](http://www.senecacountyohio.gov)

The Seneca County Board of Commissioners received four bids Thursday morning for an agricultural lease of county land in Eden Township.

The three-year contract for about 147.1 acres of land received the following bids:

1. Josh Nagel, \$195 an acre
2. Doug Fredritz, \$256.50 an acre
3. Barry Potts, \$200 an acre
4. Wise Farms, \$237 an acre

The bids are to be reviewed by the Seneca County Engineer's Office before a decision is made on who to reward the contract to.

In other business, Tiffin Columbian Junior Brody Conley, who won the Division II, 170-pound weight class state wrestling championship last weekend joined the commissioners' meeting.

Commissioner Tyler Shuff told Conley that he and the commissioners are proud of his hard work and accomplishments and Shuff presented a proclamation. Conley is just the second Columbian student to ever win a state wrestling championship.

Shuff said Conley is successful on and off the mat, as he carries a 3.816 GPA and is enrolled in honors and Advanced Placement classes. Conley is a two-time captain of the football team and was a third-team All-Ohio award winner at linebacker this past season.

Shuff said Conley is a three-time state qualifier in wrestling, with assistance from coaching mentors Travis Saylor, Eric Gibson, Chad Long, Erik Burnett, Joey Simcoe and most importantly, his father Shaun Conley.

Conley recorded a perfect 48-0 during this year's wrestling season and he won a conference, regional and district championship. He is ranked second all-time in consecutive pins.

Conley is committed as a member of the Class of 2022 to wrestle for the Cornell Big Red.

The commissioners invited Conley to a meeting next week with them and Congressman Jim Jordan, who is highly regarded for his successful wrestling career: winning four state championships in high school with a 156-1 record, and also winning two NCAA Division I wrestling championships at the University of Wisconsin.

In other business, the commissioners voted unanimously to affirm and clarify its position that the county has no Road Use and Maintenance Agreement (RUMA) with any private companies. This clarification rescinded a board decision from October 2016 establishing a RUMA.

A RUMA is an agreement between a local government and private energy developers to repair and maintain roadways damaged or degraded by the traffic associated with energy extraction.

In September 2019, the commissioners tabled two resolutions that would have rescinded and replaced the 2016 RUMA to reflect that some townships had withdrawn from the agreement to negotiate their own.

Commissioner Mike Kerschner said he is unsure of the legal weight of the decision, but he felt the board must clarify its position that there is no RUMA in place with any developers.

In other action, Kerschner suggested using some of the \$10.7 million expected to come to the county through the passage of the federal American Rescue Act Plan to assist townships.

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According to information from the County Commissioners Association of Ohio and High Bridge Consulting, it appears that townships across the country are not expected to receive direct funding through federal legislation, while villages, cities and counties are.

Kerschner suggested making \$100,000 available to each of the townships in the county to be used for federally approved expenditures via the rules of the bill. County Administrator Stacy Wilson said the county is still awaiting final guidance from the U.S. Treasury Department on permissible uses of that funding.

Kerschner suggested the funding could be used to help townships fund projects related to emergency medical services and he also pitched providing financial benefits for county employees who worked hard through the pandemic.

The commissioners agreed to schedule a work session later to decide how the money is used. The meeting is to be scheduled once there is more guidance from the federal government.

Also during the session, Wilson gave a sales tax report. The tax typically generates about half of all General Fund revenue each year.

Wilson said March, which is generally the highest sales tax report of the year, reflects receipts from most of December and some of January.

The report showed sales tax income of \$978,215.70, which was a 5.1 percent increase compared to the figure from March 2020. In the first quarter of 2021 so far, the county is outpacing last year by nearly \$200,000, or about 7.4 percent. (\$2,616,004.43 vs \$2,435,914.72).

In new business, the board approved all financial appropriations from the pre-meeting release and also approved the resignation of William Anderson from Seneca County EMS, while also approving the hiring of Becky McCann to become the county's first full-time emergency medical technician.

Seneca County Emergency Services Director Ken Majors said he's excited to welcome McCann, and also said another full-time person is to be brought on soon so the county can provide personnel assistance to joint ambulance districts in the county.

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

The SCGHD, SCEMA, Mercy Health-Tiffin Hospital and NCOESC will hold a 600 person appointment only mass vaccine clinic on Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at the NCOESC from 9am to 3pm in a joint effort to maximize efficiency in personnel and resources. This will act as a test of the partnership to plan future clinics to vaccinate as many Seneca County residents that want the vaccine.

**Emergency Management Agency** [senecacountyema.org](http://senecacountyema.org)

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:

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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.

Due to decreased breaking information from ODH and the Governor's office, the EMA will publish a weekly digest of information on Fridays to update our partners regarding COVID-19 and Vaccinations. State and County Numbers will be available on their respective websites throughout the week. Please continue to send your information to be shared with our partners to [jspahr@senecacountyohio.gov](mailto:jspahr@senecacountyohio.gov).

**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.mhrsbssw.org](http://www.mhrsbssw.org)

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

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

**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.**

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

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