



## Seneca County EMA Situation Report #8

COVID-19 Response

March 25, 2020

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, LEPC/HS and Mental Health Recovery Services

### Ohio

**Confirmed Cases:** 704 (+140 in last 24 hours)

**Deaths:** 10 (Cuyahoga (2), Erie (1), Franklin (2), Gallia (1), Lucas (1), Miami (1), Stark (2))

Number of counties with cases: 55 – Ashland (1), Ashtabula (3), Belmont (3), Butler (18), Carroll (3), Champaign (1), Clark (2), Clermont (5), Clinton (2), Columbiana (4), Coshocton (4), Crawford (1), Cuyahoga (206), Darke (1), Defiance (2), Delaware (12), Erie (2), Fairfield (5), Fayette (1), Franklin (88), Gallia (1), Geauga (4), Greene (3), Hamilton (48), Hancock (1), Highland (1), Huron (2), Knox (2), Lake (14), Lawrence (1), Licking (3), Logan (2), Lorain (37), Lucas (23), Madison (2), Mahoning (42), Marion (4), Medina (22), Mercer (1), Miami (19), Montgomery (14), Pickaway (1), Portage (4), Richland (4), Sandusky (1), Seneca (1), Stark (12), Summit (43), Trumbull (9), Tuscarawas (3), Union (3), Warren (8), Washington (1), Wayne (1), Wood (3)

Wyandot county has 1 case that hasn't made its way through the ODH system to be included above.

### Seneca County

**Confirmed Cases:** 1

**Deaths:** 0

### Executive Summary

Gov. Mike DeWine responded Tuesday to President Trump's call for a speedy return to normal business operations in the U.S. "I think the president and I are aligned. We want to get this over with as fast as we can. We want to get people back to work ...," the governor said at his daily coronavirus briefing. "The truth is, protecting people and protecting the economy are not mutually exclusive. In fact, the one depends on the other. We save the economy by saving lives."

### Seneca County General Health District:

Drive through testing is NOT recommended by the director of ODH, therefore, none are set up at this time in Seneca County.

Seneca County Health Commissioner will produce Facebook Live videos starting next Monday at 10:30 with updates from the Health District. These will occur at 10:30 Mondays, Wednesdays, and

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Fridays. Videos will be archived on Facebook and can be viewed live on the Health Department's and Commissioner's FB pages.

### **County EMA Objectives**

Seneca County EMA is monitoring the minute by minute updates and changes at the local, state and federal level. We are here for information gathering and dissemination and to assist the Seneca County General Health District with their needs.

EMA is continuing to accept and process Personal Protective Equipment from non-emergency sources to help support the supply for the Health Department. Contact the EMA at 419.447.0266 to arrange a drop-off. These resources will be prioritized and dispensed on the directive of the Seneca County General Health District.

### **Mental Health and Recovery Board of Seneca, Sandusky and Wyandot Counties**

During these uncertain times, our office may be closed to the public, however, we are still hard at work to ensure that community member's needs are met. Our board staff is ready to help you navigate the resources. Call our office at 419.448.0640 for any questions regarding behavioral health.

### **County Commissioners**

The commissioners are to hold a regular meeting at 10 a.m. Thursday. The meeting will be hosted at the commissioners' office, 111 Madison St., but the board is discouraging the public from attending in an effort to stop the spread of COVID-19. The meeting will be recorded, archived and streamed live through Zoom.

Residents can join the Zoom meeting by computer or mobile device at the following link:  
<https://zoom.us/j/449239893>.

Residents also can download the Zoom meeting app on their computer or mobile device and join with meeting ID **449 239 893**.

For those who would rather call in and listen to the audio of the meeting while it's occurring, they can dial **(646) 558-8656**. Residents are asked to join the meeting call about five or ten minutes before it begins.

### **City of Tiffin**

**Mayor's Messages:** Due to the current COVID-19 health crisis, I have determined it necessary to waive late fees for sewer bills for all residences and businesses for March, April, May and June in 2020. This authority is granted to me under the emergency powers of the Mayor in Chapter 131 of the Tiffin City Charter. I will request that city council ratify this action at their next meeting, once they can hold public meetings again. I feel it is necessary for the health, safety and well-being of our sewer customers during this pandemic. The last thing our customers need right now are worries about late fees as they struggle to make ends meet.

All City of Tiffin Municipal buildings shall remain closed to the public, except for employees of the city, through April 6, 2020. This closure includes family members of city employees, friends of city employees, members of the general public, and employees currently on any sort of leave. Current

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employees should only enter and exit other buildings and offices within city government if absolutely necessary. Mail and essential deliveries may continue; however, employees should avoid placing themselves within six feet of the individual making the delivery and utilize proper sanitation upon handling any packages. Employees not following these guidelines listed in this order may be subject to discipline up to and including termination. If you have any questions, I can be reached at the number and/or email on this letterhead.

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak in the State of Ohio and Nationally as of March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the City of Tiffin brush and leaf composting facility is closed until the Governor ends the "Stay at Home" order. This closure is necessary for the health, safety, and well-being of the residents of Tiffin and the city workers at the Tiffin WPCC. We ask that you please keep your yard waste at home until further notice.

### **Courts**

The Common Pleas Courts have postponed all jury trials for the time being, and are asking those with trial and hearing dates to call ahead of time to confirm that they need to appear in person. When appearing, only bring those persons that are necessary to the case. Family members and others will not be admitted to the courthouse.

### **Clerk of Courts**

The Title office is temporarily closed to the public until further notice.

### **Seneca County Veterans Services**

The Veterans Services department has stopped all in-person meetings with clients. Services will continue using phone and email. Contact the Seneca County Veterans' Services Office for more information.

### **Job and Family Services**

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services urges individuals to file their claims online, if possible, at [unemployment.ohio.gov](http://unemployment.ohio.gov).

Employers with a critical need for employees are looking for workers. Go to [Ohiomeansjobs.gov](http://Ohiomeansjobs.gov) to search and apply.

### **Healthcare**

Nursing homes have ended visitation at this time to limit the exposure of the residents.

Testing for the coronavirus is not necessary for everyone who may have the symptoms. Testing is not necessary for asymptomatic individuals. Testing will be reserved for Health Care workers and vulnerable populations only. Please call your doctor or health care provider if you think you have symptoms or call ahead to the hospital before you travel to the ER. If you are in distress, call 911 and tell the dispatcher your symptoms.

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## **EMS**

Dispatchers in Seneca County have been doing a great job at screening calls for symptoms of the COVID19 and passing that information on to first responders to protect our front line emergency medical workers.

EMS services in the county continue as usual, however, it is requested that you call your health care provider before calling 911 regarding symptoms of COVID-19. If you are in respiratory distress, call 911.

## **Law Enforcement**

The Seneca County Sheriff has ended prisoner visitation for the foreseeable future to limit exposure to the inmates and staff of the jail and Sheriff's department personnel.

Tiffin City Police officers are taking reports by phone as much as is prudent, but still responding to emergency calls. Officers will remain on patrol throughout the city.

Fostoria Police Officers are also taking reports and patrolling; responding to emergencies as needed.

Tiffin PD and Fostoria PD have met and agreed to share resources (officers and dispatchers) if the need arises to continue to provide a safe level of service.

## **Business**

Lt. Gov. Husted advised that seasonal workers are needed by companies such as Kroger, Wal-Mart, Amazon, and others during this incident. You can get more information at [Ohiomeansjobs.com](http://Ohiomeansjobs.com). Other information for businesses can be found at [coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://coronavirus.ohio.gov).

Lt. Gov. Husted said that businesses can defer BWC payments for March, April and May. BWC and the state government will revisit that timeline in May. This decision will leave \$200 million in the local economies. Department of Transportation will issue waivers for weight and size restrictions on critical supply shipments and will waive the fee for oversized loads of critical supplies. SBA loans are available for impacted businesses at [disasterloan.sba.gov](http://disasterloan.sba.gov). Health Insurance payments from businesses can be waived for 60 calendar days as well.

TSEP and the City of Tiffin have put together webpages to direct the public to restaurants with carryout and delivery options.

## **Higher Education**

Tiffin University has suspended classroom learning and moved to an online environment.

Heidelberg University campus will close at 5:00 p.m. Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Classes will resume Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> remotely through the end of the spring semester. Heidelberg will lock all exterior doors of buildings Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> with staff reporting to campus for work. No in-person business will be conducted. Some employees will be approved to work remotely.

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### **Public/Private Schools**

As per the Governor's order, schools are closed through April 3rd for the time being. Some schools are providing breakfast and lunch, delivered to sectors around the area for students and teachers are reaching out to students to assist them in learning while at home.

### **Administration**

FEMA is working with the states to get their agreements in place for an Emergency Declaration. This is very different than a Disaster Declaration. The Department of Health and Human Services will be the lead on this Emergency Declaration, and this is unprecedented. It is vital that agencies that are experiencing extra costs in overtime, supplies, etc. keep a detailed record of expenses and time worked. There is no guarantee right now that these expenses will be reimbursed through FEMA, however, if there is a match required for grants or relief, overtime, volunteer time and time worked outside of regular hours, if documented, could be used to offset match requirements. Requests for Public Assistance applications will be distributed to government entities, hospitals and other health-related organizations and schools and universities.

**This daily situational report will be sent around 4 p.m. each day M-F and as needed over the weekend. If you wish to update or add information to this report, please get it to the EMA at [jspahr@senecacountyohio.gov](mailto:jspahr@senecacountyohio.gov) by 2:30 p.m. each day.**

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