



Seneca County EMA Situation Report #138

COVID-19 Response

March 26th, 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: 854,450 (+9,934 in the last 7 days)
Probable: 151,721
Confirmed Ohio Resident deaths: 18,382
Deaths in Ohio: 18,388

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

Metrics (as of 03/25)

Total Cases: 5,023 (+95)
Active Cases: 48 (-33)
Deaths: 131 (+3)
Recovered: 4,844 (+125)
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

(3/22) GOVERNOR: Governor DeWine announced that while there are many places where there is great demand for the COVID-19 vaccine, there are some providers in Ohio who are having a hard time filling appointments. If a local health department or hospital is not filling all their slots this week, they may book with anyone who is 16+.

Governor DeWine also made note that Ohio is starting to see a plateau in COVID-19 cases. Cases were dropping for a while, and have leveled out. Some neighboring states are starting to see increases in their cases again, so Governor DeWine said that we will have to keep watching this.

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(3/25) GOVERNOR: Governor DeWine spoke on the successes regarding the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccines and mass vaccination clinics, but noted that cases have plateaued after they had been dropping.

Governor DeWine also discussed efforts across the state to provide vaccines equitably. The Cleveland mass vaccination site has provided more than 46,000 first doses of the vaccine, and there will be 11 stationary mass vaccination sites and four mobile clinics that will travel throughout specific regions of the state.

For more outreach efforts, Ohio has focused on ensuring equity in the COVID-19 response. The Ohio Department of Aging and the Ohio National Guard have partnered with local entities and hosted 103 clinics, bringing vaccines to 5,000 older Ohioans.

While there have been many success stories in providing vaccines, the Governor did note concerns with some nursing homes who have not responded to the state's efforts to provide them with vaccines. Governor DeWine and ODH plan to make public the 56 nursing homes and 168 assisted living facilities that have not joined the Vaccine Maintenance Program.

(3/25) PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY SYSTEM: The Public Health Advisory System has seen some updates in the past week, however a new map has not been released. Four counties are moving up a level from yellow to orange because their cases per capita increased to above 50 over two weeks. Six counties are dropping from red to orange as their cases per capita dropped below 100.

VACCINATION SCHEDULING TOOL: Ohio's centralized scheduling website is now available at 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.

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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 heard an update on a \$2.4 million community kitchen project during its board meeting Thursday morning.

Reverend Aaron Gerlach, of Old Trinity Episcopal Church, expressed “deep gratitude” to the commissioners for their efforts in facilitating the project.

The board assisted the church and Seneca County Common Ground, the two organizations that are working on the kitchen, by selling a piece of land in downtown Tiffin to be used for the upgrades to the facility at 125 E. Market St.

By expanding the building and creating the kitchen space, officials are aiming to connect local growers and businesses to the community.

Audrey Flood, of Seneca County Common Ground, said the project will provide opportunities for groups to cook and eat together, house a diverse set of cooking classes and create ways to give back to the community by preparing food.

Gerlach said the project is currently in the stage featuring more detailed planning, sharing information with the community and working to raise money.

“We envision this being a resource for the whole county,” he said.

Flood agreed, adding that the project would have many direct and indirect benefits to the community. She mentioned workforce development as an area that could see improvement via culinary training, cooking classes and other educational opportunities.

“The kitchen could also be used for canning, preserving or cooking items that people can’t do out of their home,” Flood said.

She also said the kitchen will be a great community development asset, helping Seneca County stand out.

“It will be beneficial for grant opportunities and attracting new people, making this a place that people want to live, work and play,” Flood said.

Flood said the goal is to break ground on the expansion project in Spring 2022. She also shared a video during the meeting and a website link for those who want to get involved or learn more.

<https://tiffincommunitykitchen.com/>

In other business, Jill Gosche, of Seneca County Sobriety, Treatment and Reducing Trauma (START), updated the commissioners on a new program to formally link first-responders to schools to avoid re-traumatizing children after a traumatic event. The program, entitled Handle with Care, was launched in Tiffin City Schools last week.

Gosche said the program supports family stability in Seneca County and includes collaboration and partnership between the many safety service agencies and schools across the county. She said the program will be launched in Fostoria City Schools, at Sentinel Vocational Center and Seneca East, among other locations shortly.

“TCS makes Seneca County the 7th out of 88 counties in Ohio, and the first in the northern half of Ohio to have the program operating,” she said.

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Gosche said the key to the program is establishing the link between first responders and children experiencing trauma, to make them aware of the situation and let their teachers know to handle the student with care because they are having a hard time.

“The second part is encouraging positive encounters between first responders and children,” she said. Also during the session, Seneca Regional Planning Commission Executive Director Charlene Watkins updated the commissioners on the timeline for the Program Year 2021 Community Development Block Grant Program.

The county’s allocation through the program is \$158,000, and the CDBG Program also offers other competitive grants that political subdivisions may apply for. The board held a public hearing Thursday and Watkins said people can submit project ideas online at SeeSenecaGrow.org. A community Development Implementation Strategy meeting is to be hosted via Zoom on April 6th at 1 p.m. to solicit more local feedback on potential projects to be funded via the CDBG allocation. Most grant applications through the program are due June 14, for further details, please contact the regional planning commission office.

In other action, Seneca County Sheriff Fred Stevens requested about \$300,000 for several proposed projects, including upgrades to the sheriff’s office fleet of vehicles. Stevens said nearly 70 percent of sheriff’s office vehicles have over 195,000 miles.

“It’s not safe,” he said, adding that instead of the two vehicles the office was allocated within this year’s budget, he’d like to purchase four. Stevens also said he was working with the Village of Attica to exchange law enforcement services for some older vehicles that the village was no longer using. The commissioners received Stevens’ request in writing and agreed to consider it for next week’s session. During appointments, the board received one bid for a 64-passenger bus on behalf of the Seneca County Opportunity Center. The bid, from Rush Trucking Centers of Lima, was for \$105,281 if you include customization options and the trade-in of an older vehicle. Opportunity Center Superintendent Lew Hurst is to review the bid before a purchase is made.

In new business, all resolutions and financial matters from the pre-meeting release were improved as well as:

* Appointing Tiffin-Seneca United Way Director Kari Steele and a Tiffin-Seneca Economic Partnership employee to the Revolving Loan Fund board.

Seneca County General Health District: www.senecahealthdept.org

Emergency Management Agency 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.

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 has reached an agreement with Google to conduct an analysis on all outstanding unemployment claims to more quickly identify markers for fraud.

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

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

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EMA

SENECA COUNTY

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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