



Seneca County EMA Situation Report #139
COVID-19 Response
April 2nd, 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: 863,890 (+9,530 in the last 7 days)
Probable: 156,061
Confirmed Ohio Resident deaths: 18,609
Deaths in Ohio: 18,611

Seneca County: LEVEL 3 (High Incidence) PUBLIC EMERGENCY [Ohio's Public Health Advisory System](#)
Metrics (as of 04/01)

DATE	3/22	3/23	3/24	3/25	3/26		3/29	3/30	3/31	4/1
TOTAL CASES	4991	5006	5012	5023	5038		5056	5060	5060	5080
ACTIVE CASES	50	38	44	48	55		38	41	39	45
CONFIRMED	3103	3108	3109	3114	3122		3134	3136	3136	3148
PROBABLE	1888	1898	1903	1909	1916		1922	1924	1924	1932
MALES	2217	2224	2225	2232	2237		2244	2246	2246	2260
FEMALES	2774	2782	2787	2791	2801		2812	2814	2814	2820
CURRENTLY HOSPITALIZED	7	6	6	6	4		6	6	6	4
RECOVERED	4810	4837	4837	4844	4851		4886	4883	4885	4898
DEATHS	131	131	131	131	132		132	136	136	137
AVERAGE AGE	46	46	46	46	46		46	46	46	46

Resources:
Ohio ODH: coronavirus.ohio.gov
CDC: [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)
Seneca County General Health District: senecahealthdistrict.org

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Executive Summary

GOVERNOR: Governor DeWine gave his regularly scheduled press conference at Dayton's regional mass vaccination clinic. The Governor and Dr. Bruce Vanderoff with the Ohio Department of Health discussed the state's rising number of positive cases and concerns with the three COVID-19 variants that make up 80% of those positives.

With increased supplies and demand for vaccines, the state is allocating most based on county populations, but areas with great demand and increased cases may receive increased shipments of the vaccine as well.

The Governor also detailed the state's plan to begin vaccinating college students on college campuses and employees at their places of work. This expansion could include unions, businesses, churches, etc. Beginning April 12th, vaccine providers can choose to take up to 25% of their vaccine allocations for that week and utilize that supply for the expansion to local businesses and non-profits.

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY SYSTEM: The Public Health Advisory System map has been updated. With the increase in cases per capita at the statewide level, there was also an increase in positive cases in 56 counties. There haven't yet been significant increases in healthcare utilization at the county level, so most counties will remain red or orange.

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.

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

The Seneca County Board of Commissioners invested \$375,000 in its Budget Stabilization, or “Rainy-Day” Fund on Thursday morning, bringing the total in the fund to \$1 million.

The board created the fund in April 2018 to protect against a future economic downturn. Commissioner Mike Kerschner said that creating the fund was a good plan because of the uncertainty of the future strength of the economy.

“We can do the opposite of what other government entities do,” Kerschner said. “Instead of spending our grandchildren’s money, we can put it in a savings account.”

Each of the commissioners has expressed a need for a strong Budget Stabilization Fund to protect the county for the future.

In other action, the board approved \$135,000 in supplemental appropriations for the Seneca County Sheriff’s Office for four new vehicles and the equipment needed for those vehicles.

Initially, the county had \$60,000 in place for the sheriff’s office to purchase two new vehicles. In most years, the commissioners budget enough to buy two new vehicles for the sheriff’s office, but last year there were no purchases made due to budgetary constraints.

Sheriff Fred Stevens joined the commissioners’ meeting last week to request that the county purchase the additional vehicles because of the concerning age and mileage of vehicles in the current fleet. The four new vehicles will be joined by the acquisition of some used cruisers.

Kerschner said the commissioners have committed to making law enforcement services and emergency medical services its two major priorities.

“These are our biggest responsibilities as commissioners,” he said. “We want to establish a good foundation to protect our citizens. To do that, these are two areas we concentrate on.”

In news related to Seneca County Emergency Medical Services, Commissioner Anthony Paradiso announced that the merger of two joint ambulance districts on the eastern side of the county is imminent.

“I’m pleased to announce that the Attica-Venice-Reed Joint Ambulance District, all the entities within, have approved a merger with Boom-Scipio (Joint Ambulance District),” he said. “Those two districts will become one. That will occur in the next 90 days. It’s exciting because that’s a big part of our larger plan.”

Also during the session, County Airport Operator Brad Newman updated the commissioners on work being done at the airport, while he also requested approval to move forward in considering a project to crack fill and reseal the runway in 2021.

In the past, the county has approved similar projects to increase the life of the runway.

Newman is expected to put together bid specifications and the project will be put to bid later this year.

In other business, the commissioners received two bids for the CR 48 pavement resurfacing project in Hopewell Township. **The engineer’s estimate for the project is \$396,296.**

** Gerken Paving, of Napoleon, for \$360,142.12*

** M&B Asphalt, of Tiffin, for \$341,709.09*

The bids are to be reviewed by the county engineer.

During appointments, Reverend Paul Stark, from Heidelberg University asked the commissioners for an update on the proposed Martin Luther King Jr. memorial. In October, Stark was joined by members of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Committee to request that a statue honoring King be placed on the property at the Seneca County Justice Center. Stark said the MLK Jr. Day Committee has celebrated the

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work of King in Seneca County for more than 30 years. He said Thursday that the memorial could be a place to celebrate the legacy of King and the pursuit of justice for all people. Kerschner said a committee has been formed to create an application process for any proposed permanent structure to be placed on county-owned land. That committee is scheduled to meet again on April 21.

During new business, the board approved all resolutions and appropriations from the pre-meeting release and:

* A \$1,500, \$21.75 and \$210 supplemental appropriation to the General Fund for Salaries, Medicare and PERS.

Seneca County General Health District: www.senecahealthdept.org

The latest Vaccination numbers for Seneca County are as follows: 26.68% (14,723) of residents have received their first dose of the vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) and 16.48% (9,091) have completed the vaccination cycle (Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson). State and county dashboard can be found at <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/dashboards/covid-19-vaccine/covid-19-vaccination-dashboard>

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. You can also get tested at Rite-Aid and CVS.

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

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City of Tiffin: www.tiffinohio.gov

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

Of the 54,343 initial claims reported this week, about 5,000 have been flagged for potential fraud. Anyone who suspects their identity was compromised and used to file a fraudulent unemployment claim is urged to report it to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) immediately by visiting unemployment.ohio.gov, clicking on "Report Identity Theft," and following the instructions. As an alternative, individuals also may call (833) 658-0394.

Ohioans filed 54,343 initial jobless claims last week, according to statistics ODJFS reported to the U.S. Department of Labor. The total number of initial jobless claims filed in Ohio over the last 54 weeks (3,152,661) was more than the combined total of those filed from 2013-2019.

Ohioans filed 314,698 continued jobless claims last week, which was 461,604 fewer than – or about 40% of –the peak last year. That includes both traditional unemployment claims and claims for extended benefits. In addition, 177,713 Ohioans received Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) last week.

Over the last 54 weeks, ODJFS has distributed over \$9.2 billion in unemployment compensation payments to over 981,000 Ohioans. In addition, ODJFS has issued over \$10 billion in PUA payments to over 1 million Ohioans.

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 by 2:30 p.m. each publishing day.

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