



**Seneca County EMA Situation Report #140**

**COVID-19 Response**

**April 12th, 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 (+14,122 in the last 9 days)**  
**Probable: 161,443**  
**Confirmed Ohio Resident deaths: 18,827**  
**Deaths in Ohio: 18,819**

**Seneca County: LEVEL 3 (High Incidence) PUBLIC EMERGENCY [Ohio's Public Health Advisory System](#)**  
**Metrics (as of 04/09)**

DATE	3/23	3/24	3/25	3/26		3/29	3/30	3/31	4/1	4/9
<b>TOTAL CASES</b>	5006	5012	5023	5038		5056	5060	5060	5080	<b>5158</b>
<b>ACTIVE CASES</b>	38	44	48	55		38	41	39	45	<b>53</b>
<b>CONFIRMED</b>	3108	3109	3114	3122		3134	3136	3136	3148	
<b>PROBABLE</b>	1898	1903	1909	1916		1922	1924	1924	1932	
<b>MALES</b>	2224	2225	2232	2237		2244	2246	2246	2260	<b>2299</b>
<b>FEMALES</b>	2782	2787	2791	2801		2812	2814	2814	2820	<b>2859</b>
<b>CURRENTLY HOSPITALIZED</b>	6	6	6	4		6	6	6	4	<b>6</b>
<b>RECOVERED</b>	4837	4837	4844	4851		4886	4883	4885	4898	<b>4968</b>
<b>DEATHS</b>	131	131	131	132		132	136	136	137	<b>137</b>
<b>AVERAGE AGE</b>	46	46	46	46		46	46	46	46	<b>46</b>

**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)**

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## Executive Summary

**GOVERNOR:** Governor DeWine opened his press conference discussing the positive position Ohio's economy is currently in. Ohio's GDP outpaced the nation in the final quarter of calendar year 2020. The U.S. GDP is estimated to have grown 4.3% in the quarter, and Ohio's GDP is estimated to have increased 5% during the same timeframe.

Ohio's unemployment rate in February 2021 was 5%, and the national rate was 6.2%.

Ohio's state revenues are recovering as well. This month, Ohio's tax revenues exceeded the monthly estimate by \$41 million, or 2.6%, and remain 4.3% above the estimate for the fiscal year-to-date.

**VACCINATIONS:** The Governor reminded viewers and encouraged local organizations to partner with their vaccine providers to increase vaccinations with the following:

- Beginning Monday, vaccine providers may partner with other organizations, such as employers, labor unions, churches, etc., to hold closed-pod vaccination clinics.
- The Governor encouraged health departments to reach out to local high schools to help set up vaccinations for eligible students who want to be vaccinated.
- Beginning this week, vaccine providers are able to partner with colleges and universities to help administer vaccinations to college students.

**PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY SYSTEM:** The Public Health Advisory System map has been updated. Cases per capita continue to increase statewide with many counties seeing an increase in positive cases. Franklin County has moved to the highest advisory level and is now on the "watch list".

**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.

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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)

The Seneca County Board of Commissioners heard an annual update from Fostoria Economic Development Corp. President Renee Smith Thursday morning.

Smith said 2020 was a challenging, but successful year for her office.

“As far as FEDC in 2020, we can all agree that nothing about 2020 went as planned,” Smith said, adding that economic development continued even given the difficult circumstances.

Smith reported that there was a total investment of more than \$34 million across several economic development projects in Fostoria last year.

Smith said new project announcements should be coming soon, including two projects that are expected to create 130 new jobs and include \$33 million in capital investment through construction and machinery/equipment purchases.

She also said that a new speculative building is to be constructed in Fostoria, and FEDC is working to acquire the former St. Wendelin school property. She said additional plans and ideas will be shared later.

Smith also announced the creation of the Launch Fostoria business competition which is being hosted by FEDC and the Fostoria Area Chamber of Commerce. The contest, which Smith said had already received three applications and business plans, will allow aspiring entrepreneurs to pitch their business ideas to a panel of judges. The deadline to register your business idea is May 7th, and a “Shark Tank” style event is to be held in Fostoria on July 23rd to select a winner.

Commissioner Tyler Shuff said he was excited about the competition, and mentioned that he worked to host a similar competition in Tiffin that led to the creation of several new businesses. The winner will receive a prize package valued at almost \$18,000 and includes a one-year lease.

To learn more, visit <http://fostoriachamber.com/launch/>.

In other action, Tiffin-Seneca Public Library Adult Programming Manager Trinity Lescallett updated the board on plans for the 2021 Community Read Program. She said last year’s program had many events canceled due to the global health crisis.

She said Steve Lopez, the author of last year’s Community Read book titled “The Soloist,” is to visit the community in October. A program will be hosted on Zoom and on the library’s Facebook page to reflect on previous Community Read books. Lescallett said two authors of previous Community Read titles, Martha Conway and Janet Beard, will join the call to speak with the community about their latest work.

The event will take place on Thursday, April 22 at 6:30 p.m. The registration form can be found here: <https://bit.ly/TSPL2021CommunityRead>

Lescallett thanked the many organizations that have collaborated with the library over the years and also said the Zoom program will include updates from several community partners such as the Department of Job and Family Services and the Seneca County Opportunity Center.

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Also during the session, the commissioners each spoke about the first paid full-time EMS crew that hit the road Wednesday for a 12-hour shift. Paradiso said he received a call from someone in the Attica area thanking the new crew for its quick response during a car accident yesterday.

In other action, County Administrator Stacy Wilson gave a quick update on the county's finances for 2021, saying that through March, revenue has been about \$3.9 million, while expenses have been reported at about \$4.5 million. She said the deficit is not cause for alarm, but the lower reported revenue figure is due to an extension on the due date for property taxes. In other years, property taxes would have been settled in March, but due to mailing issues, the settlement is expected to occur in April instead this year.

Commissioner Kerschner said because of this, more will be learned from April's financial report. During new business, the board approved all resolutions from the pre-meeting release.

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

The latest Vaccination numbers for Seneca County are as follows: 30.76% (16,975) of residents have received their first dose of the vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) and 22.10% (12,196) 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](http://senecacountyema.org)

**COVID-19 Funeral Assistance:** The COVID-19 pandemic has brought overwhelming grief to many families. At FEMA, our mission is to help people before, during and after disasters. We are dedicated to helping ease some of the financial stress and burden caused by the virus.

Under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, FEMA will provide financial assistance for COVID-19-related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020.

#### **Who Is Eligible?**

To be eligible for funeral assistance, you must meet these conditions:

- The death must have occurred in the United States, including the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.
- The death certificate must indicate the death was attributed to COVID-19.
- The applicant must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien who incurred funeral expenses after January 20, 2020.
- There is no requirement for the deceased person to have been a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien.

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## How to Apply

### COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Line Number

Applications begin on April 12, 2021  
844-684-6333 | TTY: 800-462-7585

Hours of Operation:  
Monday - Friday  
8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Central Time

If you had COVID-19 funeral expenses, we encourage you to keep and gather documentation. Types of information should include:

- An official death certificate that attributes the death directly or indirectly to COVID-19 and shows that the death occurred in the United States, including the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.
- Funeral expenses documents (receipts, funeral home contract, etc.) that includes the applicant's name, the deceased person's name, the amount of funeral expenses, and the dates the funeral expenses happened.
- Proof of funds received from other sources specifically for use toward funeral costs. We are not able to duplicate benefits received from burial or funeral insurance, financial assistance received from voluntary agencies, government agencies, or other sources.

For more information, please point your browser at:

<https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance#apply>

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)

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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: Ohio saw 44,985 initial applications for unemployment compensation last week, according to the Department of Job and Family Services. About 3,700 of the new claims have been flagged as potentially fraudulent.

The total number of new weekly claims represented a decrease of 17% from the previous week, when 54,343 initial applications were filed.

Additionally, the Governor is recommending to the General Assembly that a portion of the federal COVID relief and recovery funding be used to pay off the Unemployment Insurance loan owned to the federal government.

**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.**