



**Seneca County EMA Situation Report #26**  
**COVID-19 Response**  
**April 16, 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:** 8239 (+611 in last 24 hours)  
**Probable:** 175  
**Confirmed Deaths:** 373  
**Probable Deaths:** 16

**Seneca County**

**Total Cases:** 11  
**Confirmed Cases:** 5  
**Deaths:** 1  
**Recovered:** 5

**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 (Thanks to Wood County EMA)**

Governor DeWine- I believe we are about to enter a new phase. Essential facts of where we are: Ohioans have done a great job fighting back, staying home, doing social distancing. I have never been prouder to be an Ohioan, I am very grateful. You have flattened the curve. We hope now that it will start trending down. We all live in a state and country where COVID19 is still here and is going to be here until we have a vaccine. We don't know how long that will be. We must get Ohio's economy moving again, we must get people back to work. We must get this right. We are fighting a 2 front war- one has to do with keeping us safe and is a medical crisis, the other is an economic crisis. The Board of economic advisors has been formed by the governor. I will fight to get this economy back, I will do everything I can do. We also have to fight to save lives.

Dr. Acton- 74,000 Ohioans have been tested. Hospitals and nursing homes are not doing anything wrong, these are just high risk areas. We shouldn't be surprised by these numbers, this is the nature of

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the virus. 623 cases in the past 24 hours. Do not underestimate donning your mask and your cape. We still need to do this. As we return to activities, the chance for infection returns. Don't be so hard on yourself day to day, we are all accepting a new way to go forward.

Governor DeWine reports that there is now an email set up to coordinate donations and offers to help. This address is [together@governor.ohio.gov](mailto:together@governor.ohio.gov).

Dr. Acton reports there is a new coronavirus interactive dashboard at <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/home/dashboard>.

#### **Seneca County General Health District:**

The Health Commissioner clarified the Seneca County Coronavirus numbers as 11 total confirmed cases of the COVID19 virus which INCLUDES 5 currently ill (one of those currently hospitalized), 5 recovered from the illness and 1 deceased due to complications of COVID19.

Seneca County Health Commissioner will produce Facebook Live videos with updates from the Health District. This will occur at 10:30 on Wednesdays. Videos will be archived on Facebook and can be viewed live on the Health Department's and Commissioner's FB pages.

#### **Emergency Management Agency**

We would like to thank everyone who has donated PPE and other supplies to our health care workers and first responders through the EMA. We are continuing to accept donations of the following items: N95 masks, surgical/procedure masks, gowns, goggles, face shields, eye protection, disinfectant wipes, hand sanitizer, bulk disinfectant, bulk hand soap, Isopropyl alcohol, Lysol concentrated cleaners and thermometers. The Donation Center at the Public Safety building will be accepting donations from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. M-F. These resources will be prioritized and dispensed on the directive of the Seneca County General Health District.

#### **Blood Collection**

The American Red Cross now faces a severe blood shortage due to an unprecedented number of blood drive cancellations in response to the coronavirus outbreak. **Blood donation is considered an essential service** to ensure the health of the community and is listed as an exception in the state order. While everyone is being asked to avoid mass gatherings, it's very important to note that blood drives are **not** considered "mass gatherings."

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

The Mental Health and Recovery Services Board contracts with Firelands Counseling and Recovery Services who are making the attached resource available to our healthcare workers and first responders during this time.

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.

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### **City of Tiffin**

Mayor's Message: All City of Tiffin Municipal buildings shall remain closed to the public, except for employees of the city through the end of day May 1, 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 employees should only enter and exit other buildings and offices within the city government if absolutely necessary. This includes all playgrounds and the city compost facility.

Declarations and orders by the Mayor and City Council can be found at [tiffinohio.gov](http://tiffinohio.gov).

### **Job and Family Services**

For the week ending April 11, 2020, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) reported 158,678 initial jobless claims to the U.S. Dept. of Labor. The number of initial jobless claims filed in Ohio over the last four weeks stands at 855,197. To put that in perspective, the total for the last four weeks of claims is 139,685 more than the combined total of 715,512 for the last two years. Over these last four weeks, ODJFS has distributed more than \$227 million in unemployment compensation payments to more than 271,000 claimants.

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 [Ohiojobs.gov](http://Ohiojobs.gov) or [coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://coronavirus.ohio.gov) to search and apply.

### **OSS Solid Waste District**

Due to the health and safety concerns involving the COVID-19 epidemic for local citizens, contracted businesses, OSS staff, and assisting community service workers and volunteer groups, the District is canceling all spring recycling collection events.

- **Household Hazardous Waste Collection – Saturday, May 2 – CANCELLED**
- **Television & Electronics Collection – Saturday, May 9 – CANCELLED**
- **Ottawa County Appliance Collection – Saturday, June 13 – CANCELLED**

The District plans to hold the scheduled fall recycling collection events. Fall collections will be held to accept materials for household hazardous waste, televisions and electronics, appliances and tires. Fall dates and information can be found at [recycleoss.org](http://recycleoss.org).

### **Administration**

Today's House 2020 Economic Recovery Task Force meeting consisted of testimony from Jonathan Smith with Lancaster Bingo, David Waikem with Waikem Auto, and Bob Hager with Miller Textiles.

Jonathan Smith told the committee that as the state government continues the shutdown, the charities that benefit from bingo are losing \$2 million every week. Their operation supports over 1,000

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charities including veteran/fraternal clubs, at-risk and foster youth programs, animal shelters, food banks and churches. Smith said that a majority of these organizations base a majority of their annual budgets off of the revenue generated by the charitable gaming. He is starting to purchase masks, gloves and other sanitary materials to use when they are able to open bingo halls again.

David Waikem from Waikem Auto in northeast Ohio is a third generation company that has been able to navigate through the Great Recession and the crash of the automobile industry in 2008 without laying off people, however, they recently had to layoff 124 employees because of the current crisis. He estimated that the counties and the state are down about 70% in tax revenue generated by the sales of cars. Waikem acknowledged that their company is lucky to have been announced as essential so they can continue to provide car maintenance, but said there is much confusion about what is essential and what isn't in terms of other companies, such as a fishing tackle shop that he also owns.

The final witness the committee heard from was Bob Hager who owns Miller Textiles in western Ohio which provides linen and uniform services. A majority of his customers are from the restaurant industry, so the day the bar and restaurant closures were announced, Miller Textiles lost 50% of their business. Looking toward a time when they're able to reopen, Hager said he has three main concerns; staffing levels in light of the "generous unemployment benefits," customers being able to pay for services, and potential lawsuits from employees and customers trying to seek compensation for an illness.

Chairman Zeltwanger said the committee will meet again tomorrow and plans on having a busy schedule again next week, however they may look to move next week's meeting to a time other than 12:30. His office will work to get that schedule out as soon as possible.

**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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