



Seneca County EMA Situation Report #141
COVID-19 Response
April 16th, 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 (+20,056 in the last 5 days)
Probable: 164,163
Confirmed Ohio Resident deaths: 18,917
Deaths in Ohio: 18,910

Seneca County: LEVEL 3 (High Incidence) PUBLIC EMERGENCY [Ohio's Public Health Advisory System](#)
Metrics (as of 04/15)

DATE	4/12	4/13	4/14	4/15
TOTAL CASES	5180		5199	5217
ACTIVE CASES	62		84	102
CONFIRMED	3188		3197	3200
PROBABLE	1992		2002	2017
MALES	2308		2318	2327
FEMALES	2872		2882	2890
CURRENTLY HOSPITALIZED	6		5	5
RECOVERED	4981		4977	4977
DEATHS	137		138	138
AVERAGE AGE	46		46	46

Resources:

Ohio ODH: coronavirus.ohio.gov

CDC: [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)

Seneca County General Health District: senecahealthdistrict.org

John Spahr Emergency Management Administrator
 126 Hopewell Ave., Tiffin, Ohio 44883
 Office: 419.447.0266 • Fax: 419.448.5064



Executive Summary

GOVERNOR:

(4/15/2021) Governor DeWine stressed the importance of continued safety considerations as we continue to combat the virus. With hospitalizations increasing to numbers we haven't seen for more than a month and cases per 100,000 people significantly increasing as well, it is vital that we continue to vaccinate Ohioans and follow health guidelines.

(4/13/2021) Governor DeWine and the Ohio Department of Health have issued an advisory that Ohio vaccine providers temporarily pause administration of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine in accordance with FDA and CDC recommendations.

The halt in Johnson and Johnson vaccine administration comes as a result of six cases out of 6.8 million doses that have been administered developed a "rare and severe type of blood clot." While the number of individuals who developed the blood clots were extremely low, the halt is due to an abundance of caution to take time to ensure the safety of the vaccine. The CDC and FDA expect the halt to be short in duration and last days to weeks as opposed to weeks to months.

STATE MONTHLY FINANCIAL: (4/13/2021) The Ohio Office of Budget Management Monthly Economic Summary and State Financial Report for March 2021 is attached to the email.

VACCINATIONS: Dr. Bruce Vanderoff provided an update regarding the Johnson and Johnson vaccines. The blood clots seen in the six women are exceedingly rare but can be very dangerous. The CDC has advised that a person's risk of developing this blood clot is extremely low following a month after receiving the vaccine. They have also advised if you develop a severe headache or abdominal pains within three weeks after receiving the Johnson and Johnson vaccine, you should see your doctor.

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY SYSTEM: The Public Health Advisory System map has been updated. 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 purple due to increased hospital admissions, emergency visits and health care utilization. We are unable to download an image or .pdf of the system. Please go to <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/dashboards/other-resources/public-health-advisory-system> for the dashboard.

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.

John Spahr Emergency Management Administrator
126 Hopewell Ave., Tiffin, Ohio 44883
Office: 419.447.0266 • Fax: 419.448.5064



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](#).

Seneca County Commissioners: www.senecacountyohio.gov

The Seneca County Board of Commissioners Thursday morning thanked a young man for his quick-thinking and heroic actions during a fire.

Last month, Seneca East High School Senior Drew Steinmetz noticed a woodshed fire and quickly alerted authorities. Firefighters say his quick reporting of the fire and his use of firefighting methods while he waited for help to arrive saved the lives of two animals and prevented further fire damage.

The commissioners presented Steinmetz with a letter that states the board is “proud to call you a resident of Seneca County.”

Steinmetz also briefly spoke about his Eagle Scout project, titled “Bags of Hope.” The project saw Steinmetz raise money to make string bags filled with comfort items such as a stuffed animal, a fidget spinner, a coloring book and a stress ball. The bags were given to Republic and Bloom Township Fire and EMS squads to be provided to a child when involved in an accident.

The commissioners also noted that Steinmetz is on track to become the youngest certified Emergency Medical Technician for the Republic squad of Seneca County EMS. Steinmetz is on schedule to be certified in July.

In other business, the commissioners approved the reopening of the Seneca County Museum to occur on Memorial Day weekend. Initially, the first floor is to be the only one open to the public as museum officials continue to inventory items on the other floors. The museum has been closed to the public since March of 2020 due to COVID-19.

In other action, County Administrator Stacy Wilson provided the latest sales tax report to the board. Sales tax receipts for April equaled \$816,083.09, which represents a 20-percent increase compared to the report from April of last year. The April update represents sales tax collected in most of February and some of January. Through the first four months of the year, the county has collected about 10.1% more in sales tax compared to the same period in 2020 (\$3,432,077.52 vs \$3,115,861.53).

Also during the meeting, the board agreed to publicize a response to a letter from Rick and Dorothy Bouillon, of Alvada. The initial letter levied some concerns about the future of Seneca County EMS. The commissioners’ response includes a one-page general statement from the board and three pages of detailed replies to specific claims made in the Bouillon’s letter.

Board President Mike Kerschner said both letters are to be posted on the county’s website

John Spahr Emergency Management Administrator
126 Hopewell Ave., Tiffin, Ohio 44883
Office: 419.447.0266 • Fax: 419.448.5064



“Anyone that has any questions can call us,” he said. “I think there are some misconceptions out there as it relates to the direction we are trying to take EMS across the county. There are also some concerns that are valid ... We want to answer those questions as professionally and transparently as possible. You can read the initial letter here, and the commissioners’ response here.

Also, the commissioners received five bids for the 2021 Chip Seal Project. The project will include chip seal work on CR 5, 10, 13, 16, 29, 35, 40, 58 and 61. The engineer’s estimate for the project is \$629,888. The bids received were as follows:

- Henry Bergman, of Genoa, \$560,873.38
- Ward Construction, of Leipsic, \$523,963.23
- Unilliance, of Oak Harbor, \$571,788.45
- 2020 Enterprise, of Somerset, \$582,164.66
- Allied Construction, of Chillicothe, \$597,362.71

In other action, Commissioner Tyler Shuff read a proclamation recognizing emergency dispatchers in the county as this week is National Telecommunicators Week.

The commissioners also approved the purchase of a new ambulance on behalf of Seneca County EMS. The cost of the new vehicle is about \$220,465. County Emergency Services Director Ken Majors said the ambulance should be ready to be used by county personnel in about eight months. The long wait time for the vehicle is due to a high demand nationally for ambulances

During appointments, Nicole Williams from the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Seneca, Sandusky and Wyandot Counties discussed the Safe Serve program offered by the agency. The online program is free to business owners and promotes the legal and responsible sale and service of alcoholic beverages.

During new business, the board approved all resolutions from the pre-meeting release.

Seneca County General Health District: www.senecahealthdept.org

The latest Vaccination numbers for Seneca County are as follows: 31.97% (17,641)of residents have received their first dose of the vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) and 23.51% (12,970) 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

COVID-19 Funeral Assitance: 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:

John Spahr Emergency Management Administrator
126 Hopewell Ave., Tiffin, Ohio 44883
Office: 419.447.0266 • Fax: 419.448.5064



- 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.

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

John Spahr Emergency Management Administrator
126 Hopewell Ave., Tiffin, Ohio 44883
Office: 419.447.0266 • Fax: 419.448.5064



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: Ohioans filed 23,117 initial applications for unemployment compensation last week, according to the Department of Job and Family Services. About 1,200 of those claims have been flagged as potentially fraudulent.

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.