



**Seneca County EMA Situation Report #27**  
**COVID-19 Response**  
**April 17, 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 (+619 in last 24 hours)  
**Probable:** 249  
**Confirmed Deaths:** 401  
**Probable Deaths:** 17

**Seneca County**

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

**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)

**Executive Summary (Thanks to Wood County EMA)**

Governor Mike DeWine- In regards to business once we open up, what we hope to see is distancing, six feet is the norm, people working will likely be wearing a mask, barriers where barriers are appropriate, surfaces sanitized frequently, employees wearing gloves, hand sanitizer, staggered arrivals for employees, staggered lunches, checking temperatures, working from home if able. Testing- we will see testing evolve. Some things do not change, we need to assume everyone we meet is carrying the virus. Many individuals may be carrying the virus and are asymptomatic. To restart- public health measures and compliance, business operating safely, protecting the most vulnerable. Today DeWine is granting 7 commutations to prisoners and denying 84. We have been getting hundreds of requests, many of these requests are from people that are imprisoned for very serious crimes.

Lt. Governor Jon Husted- We want to make sure that when we can open back up that is clear to business owners, employees, and customers what their roles and responsibilities are. We will have the

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most thoughtful restart we can possibly have. We do want to find the balance between lives and livelihoods. We have a great team working on this.

Dr. Amy Acton- 693 new cases in the last 24 hours. As testing becomes more extensive, numbers will go up. Thanked everyone for the Spirit of Columbus award she won today. Each decision we make going forward has to be made with the best science. We have to inch our way forward. This is a phased approach.

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**

County Administrator Stacy Wilson has been working closely with elected officials and department heads across the county over the past week to come up with budget decreases after the commissioners formalized a reduction plan last Thursday.

The board's plan includes 20-percent decreases to salaries and wages in the General Fund to help meet the revenue shortfall created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The cut in salaries is coupled with the zeroing out of the travel budget and the halving of the supply budget. The commissioners also instituted a hiring freeze, are in the process of re-evaluating and canceling many contracts and are not planning to undertake any capital projects without outside funding.

These changes followed the Seneca County Budget Commission reducing its General Fund revenue projection for 2020 by \$2 million last week.

Wilson said most departments had submitted a plan Thursday morning, but some were still working on finding cuts. She said nearly \$1.9 million of reductions had been submitted by county offices so far.

Wilson also said many county offices plan to shut down on Fridays to help meet the budget reduction plan. She said the Seneca County Justice Center, RTA Building and commissioners' office all are to be closed on Fridays starting this week. Other buildings across the county also are closing on Fridays, if possible.

One office that will remain open is the Seneca County Board of Elections, so staff can continue to run this month's Presidential Primary Election. If you have questions about any office hours, please contact the office in question.

### **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.

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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.

### **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

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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 [Ohiomeansjobs.gov](http://Ohiomeansjobs.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).

### **Economic Recovery**

Chairman Zeltwanger began today's House 2020 Economic Recovery Task Force hearing responding to minority party criticism that the task force has only pursued one-sided testimony to advance their goal of opening businesses as soon as possible. Zeltwanger told the committee that he welcomes witnesses that any members want to hear from.

The first witness to address the committee during Friday's meeting was Keith Lake, VP of Ohio Chamber of Commerce, who was representing the big five business associations; Ohio Chamber of Commerce, NFIB, Ohio Manufacturing Association, Ohio Farm Bureau and Ohio Retail Merchants. Lake stressed the importance of cash flow for businesses currently, as well as an issue that will continue when businesses begin to open. He said the BWC rebates was likely the most helpful revenue infusion for businesses, however, this and other resources such as the PPP loan are not nearly enough to help sustain the vast majority of businesses.

Identifying obstacles that the business community will likely see when they begin to open, Lake gave the committee six challenges; cashflow, consumer confidence, litigation, regulatory burdens, workforce readiness, and workplace safety.

Responding to questions about the supply chain, Lake said that they foresee a large shift from Asian dependence to more home-based manufacturing because the reliance on overseas companies has proved ineffective in the wake of the current crisis. As a result, Lake and the Ohio Manufacturers Association say there will likely be a build-up of companies in Ohio which will require an increased emphasis on workforce development.

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The committee also heard from Collin Castore, president of the Ohio Brewers Association and owner of Seventh Son Brewery. Three policies that he said he hopes to see for the future of businesses are adding “business interruption” to insurance policies to help companies better cope with unanticipated closures. Castore added that they are exploring ways to spread patrons out once they’re allowed to reopen, and one way would be to utilize the fullest extent of their property such as the parking lot for seating. In doing this, liquor laws would need to be adjusted to accommodate this usage. Lastly, Castore urged the legislators to allow direct delivery from the breweries to continue as that had been a lifeline for many breweries during the closure.

The committee also heard from Kevin Wieging, president/owner of UltraSound Special Events Inc.; Tim Wolfe, owner of Patties and Pints; and Don Bowles, owner of Dreamcatcher Communications C103FM. All three echoed the same sentiments as previous business owners as far as the current hardships and the desire to get back to business as soon as possible. As the owner of a radio station, Bowles told legislators that their advertising is the main source of income, which has drastically reduced, but they still have an obligation to broadcast to their communities for the purposes of news and urgent information.

Zeltwanger ended the committee by announcing that the hearings next week will every weekday beginning at 10 a.m.

**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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