



Seneca County EMA Situation Report #28
COVID-19 Response
April 20, 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 (+4277 in last 72 hours)
Probable: 403
Confirmed Deaths: 491
Probable Deaths: 18

Seneca County

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

Resources:

Ohio ODH: coronavirus.ohio.gov

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

Seneca County General Health District: senecahealthdistrict.org

Executive Summary

GOVERNOR: Gov. Mike DeWine announced Monday that Ohio's schools will remain closed for the rest of this academic year, meaning students will finish the year learning remotely. He added that the state is not in a position to make any decisions about the fall.

The Governor also addressed black Americans which are disproportionately affected by COVID-19. He said the numbers already showing its hitting African Americans harder and that's with what is likely incomplete data since it's been a challenge to track virus by race. To explore this inequity, DeWine asked Director Ursel McElroy with the Department of Aging to lead a team to look into the issue through the Minority Health Task Force.

Ohio's private labs have eliminated their backlog of COVID-19, so DeWine has allowed hospitals to begin using those private labs again should they need to in order to conduct timely testing.

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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.

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.

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

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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.

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.

Employers with a critical need for employees are looking for workers. Go to Ohiomeansjobs.gov or coronavirus.ohio.gov to search and apply.

OSS Solid Waste District

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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.

Economic Recovery

The House 2020 Economic Recovery Task Force continued with hearings today as they again heard from small business owners from all corners of the state.

Tim Burga, President of Ohio AFL-CIO, got the committee underway telling legislators that rather than too quickly jumping back into business, the state needs to put in place proper standards to protect employees. He also suggested that an increase in minimum wage would be a key tool in getting families back on their feet following the mass loss of jobs, as well as way to get the economy back on track. Burga also said that AFL-CIO believes that OSHA standards should be strengthened in order to specifically target and reduce the spread of Coronavirus.

Bill Bader, owner of Summit Motorsports Park in Norwalk, stated that his company that grosses \$10 million per year has been reduced to what will likely amount to just over \$1 million in 2020. He said that he believes the stay at home order and closure of businesses is an overstep of constitutional rights and was simply a political move to undermine the President of United States. Representative Leland asked him to clarify that comment, to which Bader confirmed that he believes DeWine and Husted made this decision in order to help unseat the President in the November election.

Speaking on behalf of private campground owners, Chip Hanawalt explained to the committee the protocols that many campgrounds follow prior to this crisis, many of which are being asked of all businesses. These policies include no-contact payment which is typically made online beforehand in order to make a reservation. All campsites are already 15 feet apart, and there is a maximum of 6 people per campsite permitted. Hanawalt said that given the safe distancing, there is no need to have Ohio campgrounds closed as they are likely a safer place to quarantine than many hotels.

Responding questions from the committee, a Crossfit studio owner told members that asking customers to wear a mask while working out would not be something that they would be opposed to. The owner also noted that “boutique gyms” are typically class-based, which means they are easily able to cap the class limit. She said they are already prepared to limit classes to 10 people and increase the amount of class offerings each day.

Other small businesses owners testifying reiterated many of the points made in previous committee hearings including; after factoring in the additional \$600 from the CARES Act, many

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employees are making more off unemployment than they would going back to work; many are prepared to enact social distance and capacity limitations within their stores; and these companies likely will not be able to reopen if this closure continues past May 1st. Those additional witnesses were:

Chris and Jenny Niekamp, Owner - INVU Salon LTD

Debra Cochran, Owner – The Pyrple Tyrtle

Kate Rawling, Owner – Coca Crossfit

Hayley Deeter, Owner - Hayley Gallery

Julie Novak, Owner - Hail Mary's

Tom Hamilton, Owner - Beaver creek Florist

John Green, Owner – Café O'Play

Arthur J. Ganim, Owner - World Elite Brands

Jayne Palker, Owner - Pinot's Palette

The committee plans to meet again tomorrow at 10am, and plans to do so the remainder of the week.

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 by 2:30 p.m. each day.

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