



Seneca County EMA Situation Report #29
COVID-19 Response
April 21, 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: 13,250 (+734 in last 24 hours)
Probable: 475
Confirmed Deaths: 538
Probable Deaths: 19

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 on Tuesday announced the formation of a new testing strike team, led by former Govs. Dick Celeste and Bob Taft, because of the critical role testing will play in being able to reopen Ohio's economy.

DeWine also announced that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved a new reagent formula from Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc., which will significantly expand the state's ability to conduct coronavirus tests by mid-May.

Responding to questions about the opening of businesses, Director Acton and Governor DeWine said they are looking to identify policies where they're able to get the largest number of employees back with the least amount of risk. They will then monitor the results of that policy to determine how and when to start opening other businesses.

John Spahr Emergency Management Administrator
Mike Klaiss Emergency Management Deputy/911 coordinator
126 Hopewell Ave., Tiffin, Ohio 44883
Office: 419.447.0266 • Fax: 419.448.5064



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 wipes, hand sanitizer, bulk disinfectant, bulk hand soap, Isopropyl alcohol, Lysol concentrated cleaners

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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

Due to the continuing concern regarding COVID-19, the Tiffin Parks and Recreation Department is cancelling all public programs, events and day camps for the 2020 summer season. This very difficult decision was made in the interest of public safety, to protect the participants and staff.

This summer is going to be a different year for us with our very limited seasonal staff. We will do our very best to insure our parks are well maintained during this time. Tiffin Parks and Recreation staff will continue to provide the residents of Tiffin and its surrounding area with full access to local parks and trails. We simply ask that everyone continue to recognize the importance of social distancing and observe all guidance from the Ohio Department of Health designed to control the spread of COVID-19.

The swimming pool will remain closed until the Director of the Ohio Department of Health indicates it is safe for public pools to be opened, realizing there may be limitations applied to any permission to do so.

No decision has yet been reached regarding the 4th of July fireworks display. While the City would very much like to celebrate this holiday as we have done in the past, doing so would be impossible if social distancing restrictions remain in place. Perhaps the fireworks may need to be delayed until later in the year, but hopefully they will not need to be cancelled entirely.

As always during this period of social distancing, The Great Outdoors remains open. Tiffin parks include over 180 acres of land and more than 4 miles of trails throughout the city. Tiffin Parks and Recreation encourages individuals to explore the parks, get some fresh air, and enjoy nature.

Declarations and orders by the Mayor and City Council can be found at tiffinohio.gov.

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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

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

During today's House 2020 Economic Recovery Task Force meeting, legislators heard from various businesses ranging from La-Z-Boy Furniture to a Hocking Hills cabin rental company.

Speaking from the perspective of restaurant owners, Tony George from The George Group told committee members that the economy will not be able to bounce back if the restart is gradual. He emphasized several times that he believes the only way to recover is to jump all in allowing businesses to reopen.

As the fall-out in the travel industry continues, Terri Berger-Davis explained to legislators that as a travel agency they get paid when the traveler makes their final payment just ahead of their trip date. Due to the massive cancellation of vacations, they will likely not see any profit for the next year. Berger-Davis said that the consumer confidence is going to be crucial for people to feel secure in beginning to travel again.

Another issue that they face as a travel company is the risk of vendors closing. A primary vendor of many travel agencies are cruise lines, many of which are at high risk of going out of business because of the crisis. If this were to happen the travel agencies would lose that expected income from the trips

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that they have already booked, and the vacationers would likely not see reimbursement of that payment.

Lee Alexakos from Cedar Fair, the parent company of Cedar Point and King's Island, explained to the committee members that as a seasonal industry, they likely will not be able to recoup any lost revenue before needing to close their gates for winter. She also explained that they will need at least six-weeks-notice before they'll be able to open because they need to hire employees, train, and get their rides licensed and inspected.

Other witnesses presenting today included:

Steve Krull, La-Z-Boy Furniture

Dante Sabatucci, Sabbatucci Sports

Rita Shisler, Shisler's Cheese House

Rebecca Grajeda, G.A.C. Fitness and Sports Performance Center

Jenel Bentley, Buffalo Lodging Company

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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