



Seneca County EMA Situation Report #31
COVID-19 Response
April 23, 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: 14,142 (+533 in last 24 hours)
Probable: 552
Confirmed Deaths: 618
Probable Deaths: 38

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 clarified his directive for hospitals reevaluating hospital procedures saying, “we want doctors and health care providers in Ohio to reach out to patients that have had postponed procedures and reassess the patient’s case to see if the previous requirements are now met.”

Adding chronic conditions to the list, DeWine reiterated the procedures that are considered essential under the current order:

- Threat to the patient’s life if surgery or procedure is not performed;
- Threat of permanent dysfunction of an extremity or organ system;
- Risk of metastasis or progression of staging;
- Risk of rapidly worsening to severe symptoms (time sensitive)

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UNEMPLOYMENT: More than 109,000 Ohioans filed initial claims for unemployment compensation last week. The number of initial claims filed over the past five weeks amid the coronavirus pandemic and state restrictions to slow the spread of the virus now sits at 964,566.

That total is just shy of a quarter-million more than the 715,512 filed in the previous two years combined. During the five-week period, ODJFS said it sent more than \$926 million in unemployment compensation payments to more than 376,000 Ohioans.

The U.S. Department of Labor reported 4.4 million initial claims nationwide last week, down about 810,000 from the previous week's total.

OHIO HOUSE: Speaker Householder Thursday announced that the House staff will resume working in the office beginning May 4th, however they will be staggering work days and arrival times. Householder said they will be dividing the staff into two groups based on office location so that no two offices are working next to each other as both groups alternate working in the office and then from home every other day. The House also plans to stagger daily start and end times to alleviate elevator congestion, as well as taking the temperature of every employee as they enter the building.

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.

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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.

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

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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.

Job and Family Services

For the week ending April 18, 2020, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) reported 109,369 initial jobless claims to the U.S. Dept. of Labor. The number of initial jobless claims filed in Ohio over the last five weeks stands at nearly 1 million (964,566).

To put that in perspective, the total for the last five weeks of claims is 249,054 more than the combined total of 715,512 for the last two years. Over these last five weeks, ODJFS has distributed more than \$926 million in unemployment compensation payments to more than 376,000 claimants. ODJFS urges individuals to file their claims online, if possible, at unemployment.ohio.gov.

Education

Ohio School Districts received notice from Governor Mike DeWine that all public, community, private and parochial schools are to remain closed for the remainder of the school year. With the ongoing status and developments of the Coronavirus pandemic, this announcement places additional responsibilities on the schools to provide reasonable educational services to the respective district students. Additionally, concerns remain as to whether schools will be able to open in the fall as is customary.

Through the leadership efforts of district superintendents, schools have been proactive in addressing the impact of the Coronavirus on student populations, teachers, parents and communities. Substantial efforts are being made to providing alternative services and learning opportunities for students. Superintendent's have collaborated with the North Central Ohio Educational Service Center through multiple weekly video conferencing meetings to discuss options and maintain consistency between school districts.

School districts are also attempting to address options to allow for graduation for senior high school students despite the constraints of social distancing and congregating of people. Administrators recognize the importance of traditional events typically held at this time of the year such as award programs, proms, and the "symbolic" graduation ritual. With graduation

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being the pinnacle for students and parents, districts are researching options to provide suitable forums to allow student graduation. Unfortunately, the necessary coronavirus restrictions limits the options that are available.

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

Columbus Distributing began today's House 2020 Economic Recovery Task Force spelling out for the committee the stark reality that the bar and restaurant industry is facing. Erik Jenkins said conservative estimates says 20% of facilities with on-premises bars will close as a result of this shutdown, however he believes that number will be closer to 35% by the time the economy turns around.

Mickey Schwarzbek, owner of Sherwood State Bank in Defiance County, said that currently they have steady businesses because of people applying for loans and the federal government assistance programs. However, he anticipates that because a majority of their companies will have to shut down locally, there will be a significant cut in business down the road because of the lack in businesses that will be starting or expanding.

The Lake Erie Charter Boat Association, which mainly represents the sport fishing industry, said that because of algal blooms starting in late July and extending through September, in a typical year they face an industry downturn at about the time it's looking like businesses can start getting back to normal. The industry also sees about 80% of their revenue from out-of-state visitors, which is an income that is at-risk because of the discouraged travel particularly for hard-hit states like Michigan.

The committee heard from an SBA lender, Inna Kinney, with the Economic and Community Development Institute. Her company assists micro business, mostly restaurant start-ups, in securing loans to get their business off the ground. She said they have helped many businesses access the loan assistance programs since the COVID-19 closure, however she warned of major consequences if there is not access to more funding, particularly grant money given that many of the businesses will have a difficult time paying back a loan.

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Kinney also addressed the major concern of a reoccurring stay at home order if the spread of COVID-19 reenergizes in the fall. Kinney, and previous committee witnesses, say that if any of these small businesses are able to get back on their feet after this shut down they will not have the capital to do it again in a couple months, or even a couple years.

The committee wrapped up by hearing from three different witnesses in the cosmetology industry. Kim Thomas from Christopher Amira Studio in Cuyahoga County emphasized to the legislators the already extensive cleaning and sanitary regime that salons and barbershops must adhere to per Ohio Revised Code. Thomas said that a significant part of their training and education focuses on sanitation, including scissors, razors, capes, chairs and more. She detailed areas that they would be able to enhance their efforts, however she said she feels that salon practices are already stringent enough to deter the spread of the virus.

Other cosmetology testimony emphasized the onerous training and licensing requirements that are currently in Ohio law. As reoccurring legislation for past several General Assemblies, the witnesses again pointed out the over-bearing requirements that stylists and barbers must meet. One suggestion in light of the current shut down was to allow a greater percentage of classes to be taken online to both make it easier for individuals to get their license, as well as reduce exposure from a classroom setting.

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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