



Seneca County EMA Situation Report #33
COVID-19 Response
April 27, 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: 15,699 (+1118 in last 72 hours)
Probable: 626
Confirmed Deaths: 712
Probable Deaths: 41

Seneca County

Total Cases: 12
Confirmed Cases: 3
Deaths: 1
Recovered: 8

Resources:

Ohio ODH: coronavirus.ohio.gov

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

Seneca County General Health District: senecahealthdistrict.org

Executive Summary

GOVERNOR: DeWine today announced businesses that can begin to open up. These industries include hospitals and other facilities being allowed to begin outpatient surgeries. Dentists and veterinarians can also begin “business as usual” starting May 1st.

Beginning May 4th, manufacturing and construction companies can resume operations as well as general offices that can ensure six feet of distance. Starting May 12th, the consumer, retail and services sector will also be allowed to open, while customers are highly encouraged to wear face masks.

The governor outlined specific guidelines that all companies must be following, including; all employees to wear face coverings, only 50 percent of the fire code capacity is permitted, daily health assessments, clean and sanitize workplaces thoroughly and more.

DeWine said the order prohibiting gatherings larger than 10 people will continue, meaning weddings, funerals and other large-scale events will still be banned as Ohio “eases out” of the orders.

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Today's announcements come as DeWine shared statistics regarding the increase of testing capacity that he anticipates for our state as Thermo Fisher and other companies begin to increase manufacturing of testing supplies and reagent in order provide to more Ohioans.

Lt. Gov. Husted said that today's announcements "are the best possible balance of all of the interests ranging from health care to small businesses."

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

The Seneca County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution Thursday morning that formalizes about \$2 million in budget reductions.

During the meeting, which was held digitally through Zoom and Facebook Live and included about 60 participants, the board continued budget discussions.

The board's plan, which started being implemented last week, 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 travel budgets and the halving of supply budgets. 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.

The board's initial goal for the General Fund was to cut about \$2 million from this year's budget. According to the approved resolution, the number for General Fund cuts was \$1,909,728.48. This does not include other savings, such as utility costs being lowered as many offices are closing on Fridays for the foreseeable future.

The county also is expecting to receive about \$76,000 from the Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation as part of the agency's rollout today of \$172 million in dividend checks to Ohio's public employers.

The resolution formalizing budgetary reductions was necessary because the Seneca County Budget Commission reduced its General Fund revenue projection for 2020 by \$2 million earlier this month.

As a result of these decreases, many county offices announced last week that they would shut down on Fridays until further notice.

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. Many employees and offices are willing to be flexible on days and hours to help residents complete the necessary county business.

In other business, the commissioners discussed a committee that is forming to start discussions of rebooting Seneca County's economy. The group, which is chaired by Seneca County Health

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Commissioner Beth Schweitzer, is to begin meeting soon and will include public and private sector leaders. The members of the group will begin planning how the county can successfully re-open businesses and will work on interpreting and implementing the state's orders as the March Stay At Home Orders are loosened.

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.

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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.

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.

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

State Economic Recovery Committee

The House 2020 Economic Recovery Task Force continued with its hearings this week as they listened to more small business owners from all corners of the state. Today’s committee comes following a release of business guidelines over the weekend that a majority of the Republican task force members, and some others from the majority party, issued in relation to opening “all businesses on or before May 1st.” This document with guidelines and recommendations can be found [here](#).

Following the conclusion of the task force meeting, the Democrats outlined their recommendations for Ohio’s reopening, promoting 10 focus areas of “testing, tracing, hygiene, child care, vulnerable populations, worker protections, consumer confidence, support for business, general election and public awareness.”

Leonard Stevens with the Stark County Minority Business Association started today’s committee by telling the members that a common phrase in the minority business community is that “when the economy gets sick, minority-owned businesses get pneumonia.” Stevens said that statement holds truer now than ever as his members struggle to get access to PPP and other assistance programs, which he said even in light of the newest money approved by the federal government, he anticipates that money to be disproportionately distributed to minority-owned businesses.

Speaking on behalf of the trucking industry, Sherri Garner Brumbaugh from Garner Trucking said that she appreciates Ohio’s leadership during this time and that they appreciate even more that rest stops and welcome centers in Ohio continue to be open for truckers. This is not something that other states have allowed, which has been very difficult for the trucking industry. She encouraged the committee to continue to allow food trucks to operate at the rest stops throughout the state.

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As far as policies going forward, Brumbaugh said a particularly difficult standard to uphold has been taking employee temperatures because of the lack of thermometers available around the country. She added that they need more precise guidance on the use of face masks because it is unclear when they're required for employees and when they're not.

Stan Dohan with the Allen Company, a manufacturer based in Ohio, with business all over the country said this has been particularly hard for their company because their competition is located in other states and each of them has different regulations for the shut-down. He said that will be the hardest part in ensuring their business is able to continue is working to make sure that they don't lose client base because they weren't able to produce when their competition was. Dohan added that it has begun considering if they should base their company out of another state.

Stressing the importance of sports and other extracurricular activities in the wake of school closures, Mark Lewandowski explained to the committee the impact Lakota Sports Organization has felt since the stay at home order. The organization, which is a non-profit offering various sporting programs ranging from baseball to volleyball to flag football, said they've already been forced to cancel a number of their spring and summer programming due to lack of facilities and scheduling to successfully complete a season.

Lewandowski, as with most other witnesses, stressed the need for communication and a timeline for their organizations and companies to be able to open back up, emphasizing that their businesses would need at least a week or two to prepare to reopen their doors.

The committee will not be meeting tomorrow to "pull the committee recommendations together." Zeltwanger said the committee is tentatively scheduled to resume Wednesday 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 by 2:30 p.m. each day.

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