



Seneca County EMA Situation Report #34
COVID-19 Response
April 28, 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: 16,128 (+429 in last 24 hours)
Probable: 641
Confirmed Deaths: 757
Probable Deaths: 42

Seneca County

Total Cases: 14
Confirmed Cases: 5
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: Saying that he continues to listen to Ohioans, Gov. Mike DeWine said Tuesday during his daily briefing that he has come to realize the mandatory mask requirement is "offensive to some of our fellow Ohioans." For others, it is a difficult step to take. As a result, DeWine said that retail customers will not be required to wear masks. However, it remains a best practice and strong recommendation.

The Governor also announced the creation of a task force to explore reopening restaurants. DeWine has reached out to the leaders of the majority and minority parties in each chamber and has asked for them to identify restaurant and salon owners in their district who would be able participate in that forum.

OHIO HOUSE: Following yesterday's announcement from Governor DeWine, Speaker Larry Householder issued a statement saying that among many of the majority caucus members there is a "tremendous amount of frustration" that yesterday's announcement did not include more businesses.

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Householder explained many small businesses have much less foot traffic than large chain competitors that are being considered essential, emphasizing that “the big get bigger and the small go away.”

Householder continued saying that the House has repeatedly asked to work with the Administration, but they have been “met with deaf ears.” His statement concluded saying “the Ohio House has announced they are returning on May 4 and Republican members are anxious to deal with these issues in person rather than via telephone.”

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 last 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.

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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 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 14 total confirmed cases of the COVID19 virus which INCLUDES 5 currently ill (one of those currently hospitalized), 8 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

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 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 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**

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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.

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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