



Seneca County EMA Situation Report #143
COVID-19 Response
April 30th, 2021
County EOC Status: Monitoring
State EOC: Partially Activated

Distribution List: Villages, Townships, Seneca County Elected Officials, City of Tiffin Elected Officials, City of Fostoria Elected Officials, Fire Chiefs, Law Enforcement, Seneca County Education Contacts and LEPC/HS and Mental Health Recovery Services

Ohio

Confirmed Cases: 893,695 (+6451 in the last 6 days)
Probable: 170,625
Confirmed Ohio Resident deaths: 19,188
Deaths in Ohio: 19,186

Seneca County: LEVEL 3 (High Incidence) PUBLIC EMERGENCY [Ohio's Public Health Advisory System](#)
Metrics (as of 04/29)

DATE	4/19	4/20	4/21	4/22	4/23		4/26	4/27	4/28	4/29
TOTAL CASES	5259	5280	5285	5297	5297		5315	5332	5336	5345
ACTIVE CASES	105	85	85	84	66		55	61	56	64
CONFIRMED	3227	3235	3237	3239	3239		3252	3261	3263	3269
PROBABLE	2030	2045	2048	2058	2058		2063	2071	2073	2076
MALES	2344	2354	2356	2363	2363		2372	2377	2380	2383
FEMALES	2913	2926	2929	2934	2934		2943	2955	2956	2962
CURRENTLY HOSPITALIZED	5	7	7	7	5		4	5	6	6
RECOVERED	5016	5057	5062	5075	5093		5121	5132	5140	5141
DEATHS	138	138	138	138	138		139	139	140	140
AVERAGE AGE	46	46	46	46	46		46	46	46	46



Resources:

Ohio ODH: coronavirus.ohio.gov

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

Seneca County General Health District: senecahealthdistrict.org

Executive Summary

GOVERNOR:

(4/27/2021)

GOVERNOR: Governor DeWine announced that any fully vaccinated Ohioan will no longer have to quarantine if they are exposed to someone with COVID-19. By this change, students 16 and 17 years old who are vaccinated will be able to participate in sports and other activities, even when they have been exposed to someone with COVID. This change will also apply to all adults, except those who are in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, or other congregate care settings outlined in the order. Nursing homes and long-term care facilities should continue to quarantine following CDC guidance.

VACCINATIONS: Ohio's Mass Vaccination Clinic now accepts walk-ins and will offer first doses of the Pfizer vaccine this week and next week. The CDC has issued interim public health recommendations for fully vaccinated people which can be viewed [here](#).

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY SYSTEM: The Public Health Advisory System map has been updated. per capita continue to increase statewide with many counties seeing an increase in positive cases. Franklin County has remained in the highest advisory level and is now purple due to increased hospital admissions, emergency visits and health care utilization. We are unable to download an image or .pdf of the system. Please go to <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/dashboards/other-resources/public-health-advisory-system> for the dashboard.

VACCINATION SCHEDULING TOOL: Ohio's centralized scheduling website is now available at gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov. The website will serve as a singular location for Ohioans to confirm that they are eligible to be vaccinated, identify nearby providers, and schedule their appointments.

The Ohio Department of Health will continue to work directly with vaccine providers to integrate their current systems into the statewide system. Providers will be expected to use this system or another electronic scheduling system that interfaces this portal.

The centralized scheduling website will also be used for scheduling appointments at the mass vaccination clinics, including the FEMA site in Cleveland.

TESTING LOCATIONS: DeWine has started a walk-up/drive-up testing initiative with the Ohio Association of Community Health Centers and their affiliate members and the Ohio National Guard.

John Spahr Emergency Management Administrator
126 Hopewell Ave., Tiffin, Ohio 44883
Office: 419.447.0266 • Fax: 419.448.5064



These sites will also include other local community-based organizations i.e., faith-based organizations, community centers, food pantries, etc.

Testing for this initiative will be available for individuals with or without symptoms. The test has no out-of-pocket cost to the patient and individuals of any age are able to access the test. Minors will need signed consent of a parent/guardian.

For an exhaustive list of all the locations in the state that are offering testing, [click here](#).

Seneca County Commissioners: www.senecacountyohio.gov

The Seneca County Board of Commissioners congratulated a local woman Thursday for her unique achievement.

Eva McGinnis joined the board to receive a letter of recognition after she was given the coveted Girl Scout Gold Award. The award is the highest achievement in Girl Scouts.

In the letter, the commissioners write that “the award is a great representation of your hard work and dedication to those less fortunate.”

McGinnis, of Kansas, OH, is a graduate of Lakota High School and is currently attending Owens Community College, majoring in Early Childhood Education. Her Girl Scout project included providing educational enrichment for children experiencing homelessness. She created art kits for local shelters, as well as individual kits for children to take with them when they leave. Working with the Liberty Center in Fremont and the Morrison House in Tiffin, Eva created a curriculum with twenty-five different crafts the children could do and provided kits for the shelters. These kits were easy to store and transport if children continued to have unstable housing. Due to COVID-19, the art classes that Eva planned to run were reworked into videos for the shelter to show. Eva donated two supply cabinets full of supplies so the shelter would be able to continue providing enrichment opportunities.

Each of the commissioners thanked McGinnis for her hard work. “We are honored to have dedicated young people like you within Seneca County, helping and caring for others during their time of need,” the recognition letter states.

In other action, the board welcomed Health Commissioner Beth Schweitzer and thanked her for her service to the community over the past seven years. Schweitzer is set to retire Friday after nearly 30 years in public health. The board then presented a video with remarks from local leaders thanking Schweitzer for her service, and specifically for her leadership during the pandemic. You can view the video here: <https://youtu.be/h6QCC4D0INE>

Also during the session, Jacob Huner, Regional Liaison for the Ohio Secretary of State’s Office, provided an update to the commissioners.

Huner said Secretary of State Frank LaRose just visited the county earlier this week to discuss part of his office’s function, granting the authority for individuals to do business in the state. He said despite the negative impact of the COVID-19 crisis, the state was still breaking records for business filings. This, he said, is a testament to the spirit of Ohio entrepreneurs.

Huner also said preparations for the upcoming May 4th election are going well, but he also remarked on the overwhelming success of the 2020 Presidential Election. He said Ohio set an example nationwide on how to run a safe, secure and fair election.

John Spahr Emergency Management Administrator
126 Hopewell Ave., Tiffin, Ohio 44883
Office: 419.447.0266 • Fax: 419.448.5064



Huner also passed along kudos from the Secretary of State's Office to the commissioners and the Seneca County Board of Elections team for keeping up with cybersecurity directives and for being transparent and accessible to the public.

Also during the meeting, Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Seneca, Sandusky and Wyandot Counties Executive Director Mircea Handru addressed the board about the possibility of Ottawa County's mental health board joining the district. He said more research must be done, and that he would not recommend a merger without knowing it would benefit all of the counties currently in the organization. If he finds that a merger would make sense, he said he would communicate with the commissioners further. A merger would require an affirmative vote for each of the boards of commissioners in Seneca, Sandusky, Wyandot and Ottawa counties. Handru said several other steps must occur before any action is taken, but he wanted to communicate the possibility early on so the commissioners are aware of it.

In new business, the board approved all resolutions from the pre-meeting release and:

- * Accepted the resignation of Nicole Smith as clerk for the board, and thanked her for her service to the county.
- * Appointed Kylie Garner as the Clerk/Assistant Administrator for the board.
- * Signed the satisfaction of mortgage for Ostolla Baker for the satisfaction of her loan with the board for work done through the Community Housing Improvement Program.
- * Authorized an agreement with Thomas P. Miller and associates on behalf of the Seneca County Department of Job and Family Services. The agreement outlines the details of a regional wage and benefits survey to be completed by the company. The initiative, which includes a partnership between Seneca County DJFS and Tiffin-Seneca Economic Partnership, is grant-funded by the Greater Ohio Workforce Board and will cost about \$22,535.

Seneca County General Health District: www.senecahealthdept.org

Congratulations to Beth Schweitzer on her very well-deserved retirement. You will be missed. AND Welcome and further congratulations to Incoming Health Commissioner Anne Goon. We are very excited to work with you!

The latest Vaccination numbers for Seneca County are as follows: 28.57% (15,763) have completed the vaccination cycle (Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson). State and county dashboard can be found at <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/dashboards/covid-19-vaccine/covid-19-vaccination-dashboard>

Emergency Management Agency senecacountyema.org

COVID-19 Funeral Assistance: The COVID-19 pandemic has brought overwhelming grief to many families. At FEMA, our mission is to help people before, during and after disasters. We are dedicated to helping ease some of the financial stress and burden caused by the virus.

Under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, FEMA will provide financial assistance for COVID-19-related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020.

John Spahr Emergency Management Administrator
126 Hopewell Ave., Tiffin, Ohio 44883
Office: 419.447.0266 • Fax: 419.448.5064



Who Is Eligible?

To be eligible for funeral assistance, you must meet these conditions:

- The death must have occurred in the United States, including the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.
- The death certificate must indicate the death was attributed to COVID-19.
- The applicant must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien who incurred funeral expenses after January 20, 2020.
- There is no requirement for the deceased person to have been a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien.

How to Apply

COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Line Number

Applications begin on April 12, 2021
844-684-6333 | TTY: 800-462-7585

Hours of Operation:
Monday - Friday
8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Central Time

If you had COVID-19 funeral expenses, we encourage you to keep and gather documentation. Types of information should include:

- An official death certificate that attributes the death directly or indirectly to COVID-19 and shows that the death occurred in the United States, including the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.
- Funeral expenses documents (receipts, funeral home contract, etc.) that includes the applicant's name, the deceased person's name, the amount of funeral expenses, and the dates the funeral expenses happened.
- Proof of funds received from other sources specifically for use toward funeral costs. We are not able to duplicate benefits received from burial or funeral insurance, financial assistance received from voluntary agencies, government agencies, or other sources.

For more information, please point your browser at:

<https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance#apply>

John Spahr Emergency Management Administrator
126 Hopewell Ave., Tiffin, Ohio 44883
Office: 419.447.0266 • Fax: 419.448.5064



Due to decreased breaking information from ODH and the Governor's office, the EMA will publish a weekly digest of information on Fridays to update our partners regarding COVID-19 and Vaccinations. State and County Numbers will be available on their respective websites throughout the week. Please continue to send your information to be shared with our partners to jspahr@senecacountyohio.gov.

Job and Family Services: <https://djfs.co.seneca.oh.us/>

UNEMPLOYMENT: Of the 21,447 initial claims reported this week, about 900 have been flagged for potential fraud. ODJFS has enhanced its identity verification and fraud detection methods to intercept fraud attempts resulting in a significant drop in the number of initial claims being filed. ODJFS provided the number of fraud flags and this editor's note to illustrate the main reason behind the rise of initial jobless claims in early February. Since the initial claims are returning to a normal level, we will no longer provide the numbers of fraud flags as part of the weekly initial jobs report. Ohioans filed 21,447 initial jobless claims last week, according to statistics ODJFS reported to the U.S. Department of Labor. The total number of initial jobless claims filed in Ohio over the last 58 weeks (3,264,308) was more than the combined total of those filed from 2013-2019. Ohioans filed 242,365 continued jobless claims last week, which was 533,937 fewer than – or about 31% of – the peak last year. That includes both traditional unemployment claims and claims for extended benefits. In addition, 176,722 Ohioans received Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) last week. Over the last 58 weeks, ODJFS has distributed over \$9.6 billion in unemployment compensation payments to over 992,000 Ohioans. In addition, ODJFS has issued over \$10.5 billion in PUA payments to over 1 million Ohioans.

This situational report will be sent around 4 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays and as needed on other weekdays and weekends.

If you wish to update or add information to this report, please send it to the EMA at jspahr@senecacountyohio.gov.