



**Seneca County EMA Situation Report #41**  
**COVID-19 Response**  
**May 7, 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, Seneca County Education Contacts and LEPC/HS and Mental Health Recovery Services

**Ohio**

**Confirmed Cases:** 21.132 (+507 in last 24 hours)  
**Probable:** 999  
**Confirmed Deaths:** 1,153  
**Probable Deaths:** 118

**Seneca County**

**Total Cases:** 14  
**Confirmed Cases:** 5  
**Deaths:** 1  
**Recovered:** 8

**Resources:**

**Ohio ODH:** [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov)

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

**Seneca County General Health District:** [senecahealthdistrict.org](https://senecahealthdistrict.org)

**Executive Summary**

**GOVERNOR:** Gov. Mike DeWine announced Thursday that more of Ohio's economy will be cleared to reopen under safety guidelines next week.

Restaurants can reopen for outside dining on May 15 and for inside dining on May 21, the governor said. Guidelines will include maintaining space or barriers between tables and parties, limiting waiting areas and requiring customers to self-monitor for symptoms when entering. Bars can reopen under the same standards, said Treva Weaver, who led the task force on bars and restaurants. "If you're a bar with tables and chairs, you can follow these guidelines," she said.

The governor said hair salons, barber shops, day spas and similar businesses will be cleared to open May 15 under best practices released by a working group of industry professionals.

Gov. DeWine said the announcement marks a new phase, and one that has some risk. "The danger is that we relax," he said. "The danger is that we pull back. The danger is that we say things are

**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



better, we don't have to do this. If we relax, if we pull back, if we take things for granted, in a month, six weeks from now, seven weeks from now, things are not going to go the way we want them to go."

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](mailto: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 met Thursday morning for a regular board session. The board agreed to move its May 21st meeting from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Commissioner Shayne Thomas said the commissioners wanted to host an evening meeting through Zoom so it's possible for more residents to participate while the meeting is occurring.

In the past, the commissioners have attempted to host evening meetings in areas throughout the county. There was a scheduled meeting in Liberty Township for April 21, but it was canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. In place of this cancellation, the commissioners plan to reach out to Liberty Township Trustees to invite them to participate in the meeting.

The board also plans to invite all county Township to a board meeting to discuss how each entity is dealing with the health crisis. That meeting is not yet scheduled.

Also, the commissioners heard from Chris Distel Joyce from the Tiffin Education Association, and Nicki Watson Chaffee of the Seneca East Education Association, as it is Teacher Appreciation Week. Thomas read a proclamation and the board thanked these two women and all of the community's teachers.

In other business, County Administrator Stacy Wilson informed the commissioners that a group is working together to decorate the lawn of the Seneca County Justice Center to honor local high school graduates. The decorating should occur sometime next week, she said.

In other action, Wilson reported that General Fund revenue for April was about \$1.3 million, while expenses were about \$1.4 million. She said through April, the General Fund has had about \$7.8 million in revenue and about \$6.4 million in expenses.

Thomas said because of a lag in how many of the General Fund revenue sources are collected, these figures had not yet been strongly affected by the COVID-19 health crisis. The Seneca County Budget Commission met Tuesday and did not make any updates to its previous General Fund revenue certification of \$15.5 million for 2020, this is down 2 million from the initial estimate.

Thomas said the commissioners are waiting for more data to better evaluate the financial situation.

Also during the meeting, the commissioners directed Wilson to work with city officials and restaurant owners to allow the use of county property, such as parking lots and alleys, for alternative areas to eat and drink. Proposals to use additional space to help restaurants once they re-open are being discussed by city and county officials.

Wilson also updated the commissioners on orders that were made for Personal Protective Equipment (masks, hand sanitizer, etc.). She said some masks were already here, with many others on the way. The PPE is being collected for county offices to ensure a safe re-opening for employees.

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In new business, the board approved:

- \* A \$527.02 supplemental appropriation to the Impaired Driving Enforcement Program Fund.
- \* A \$14,588.03 supplemental appropriation to the Maintenance and Repair Fund for equipment.
- \* A \$19,012.66 supplemental appropriation to the General Special Projects Fund for a grant.
- \* A \$20,000 supplemental appropriation to the General Fund for supplies and COVID-19

expenses.

\* A contract with Ward Construction for the 2020 Chip Seal Project. The Leipsic-area company bid \$522,620.30 for the project on April 16.

*Commissioner Mike Kerschner emphasized that money is not being spent out of General Fund for projects, but some appropriations are being funded by grants or other outside funding sources. The board also is spending on equipment to help combat the spread of COVID-19. The commissioners hope that many of these expenses will be reimbursed because they are related to the health crisis.*

#### **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 7 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**

As buildings re-open under the "Responsible RestartOhio" plan that have had little to no water usage during the Stay at Home Order due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important to flush water that has been stagnant in both cold- and hot-water distribution lines and fixtures. Low water usage can contribute to bacterial growth, including Legionella which can cause a serious type of pneumonia called Legionnaires' disease. It can also cause other water quality issues with potential health risks due to the build-up of lead and copper in stagnant water that's been collecting in older pipes and fixtures.

As buildings reopen, it is critical to drain, flush, and if necessary based on a review of building conditions, disinfect the hot and cold-water systems to remove harmful contaminants. Devices that store water, such as drinking water fountains, water heaters, storage tanks, and any droplet or mist-forming devices such as cooling towers, humidifiers, showerheads, and certain medical and manufacturing devices and process equipment should also be flushed and disinfected in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations or industry best practices.

#### **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.

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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](http://tiffinohio.gov).

### **Job and Family Services**

For the week ending May 2, 2020, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) reported 61,083 initial jobless claims to the U.S. Dept. of Labor. The number of initial jobless claims filed in Ohio over the last seven weeks (1,118,569) is 1,112 more than the combined total of 1,117,457 for the last three years. Over these last seven weeks, ODJFS has distributed more than \$1.9 billion in unemployment compensation payments to more than 536,000 Ohioans.

ODJFS urges individuals to file their claims online, if possible, at [unemployment.ohio.gov](http://unemployment.ohio.gov)

### **Education**

No Update

### **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.

- **Television & Electronics Collection – Saturday, May 9 – CANCELLED**

With our Spring collections cancelled, we have compiled a listing of alternative options to properly dispose of items like paint, batteries, motor oil, TV's and electronics, and scrap metals. Click on: <https://recycleoss.org/special-collection-alternatives/> for more details.

- **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](http://recycleoss.org).

### **Economic Recovery (State)**

**John Spahr** Emergency Management Administrator  
**Mike Klaiss** Emergency Management Deputy/911 coordinator  
126 Hopewell Ave., Tiffin, Ohio 44883  
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No Update

**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](mailto:jspahr@senecacountyohio.gov) by 2:30 p.m. each day.**

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