



**Seneca County EMA Situation Report #48**  
**COVID-19 Response**  
**May 18, 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:** 26,646 (+1,297 in last 72 hours)  
**Probable:** 1,808  
**Confirmed Deaths:** 1,504  
**Probable Deaths:** 153

**Seneca County**

**Total Cases:** 15  
**Deaths:** 1  
**Recovered:** 9

**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:** Governor DeWine today addressed several reports from over the weekend regarding restaurant patios that were in violation of the order allowing the facilities to open. He stressed that in order to be in compliance, all customers must be seated at tables to be served food and drink. This means that bars are not able to comply if their facility is open standing area.

In response, DeWine is establishing the "Ohio Investigatory Unit" which will be a mix of individuals from law enforcement and local health departments that will respond to complaints filed against "bad actors" not complying with safety requirements.

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>.

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**Seneca County Commissioners:** [www.senecacountyohio.gov](http://www.senecacountyohio.gov)

**Seneca County General Health District:** [www.senecahealthdept.org](http://www.senecahealthdept.org)

The Health Department said there are 15 total confirmed cases of the COVID-19 virus including nine people who have recovered from the illness and one who has died 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**

The EMA will continue to update our partners on the numbers on a daily basis Monday through Friday with weekend reports only being published if there is breaking news. Please continue to send your information to be shared with our partners to [jspahr@senecacountyohio.gov](mailto:jspahr@senecacountyohio.gov).

**Blood Collection:** [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

**Mental Health and Recovery Board of Seneca, Sandusky and Wyandot Counties:** [www.mhrsbsw.org](http://www.mhrsbsw.org)

**City of Tiffin:** [www.tiffinohio.gov](http://www.tiffinohio.gov)

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

**Education:** <http://www.ncoesc.org/>

**OSS Solid Waste District:** <https://recycleoss.org/>

**Economic Recovery (Seneca County):** <https://www.tiffinchamber.com/coronavirus-resources>

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

The task force today continued its work toward helping all businesses reopen and restore their companies' profitability. Today's hearing focused primarily on event-based businesses such as wedding venues, catering and photographers. This industry has yet to be addressed in Governor DeWine's reopening plans, resulting in a common theme that many of them do not even know how to plan for when they might be able to welcome guests again.

Ben Elsass, a photographer specializing in weddings, explained to the task force that him and many others in his industry have been left with the extraordinarily difficult decision of whether or not to refund event deposits. For many like himself who run their own business, they do not have the capital to return every deposit. While his contracts with the brides and grooms accounted for this type of

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cancellation, he's still concerned that not returning deposits could leave him susceptible to lawsuits from frustrated couples.

Michelle Montvilas with Catering by Design and Larua Sweeny, owner of The Marmalade Lily event space, both testified that event spaces and catering can be handled exactly like restaurants. Tables are able to be appropriately spaced, servers can wear masks and buffets can be eliminated for plated meals. Montvilas told members that starting the 21st, a restaurant could potentially have up to 100 customers in their dining room at once depending on their size, however an event space that hold the same amount would still not be allowed to.

Both women primarily service wedding events, which Sweeny said is already a very "clustered" occasion where families are able to be seated together and remain distant from others who might not have been quarantining with them during the pandemic. Sweeny has begun talking to her brides about potential protocols if they are able to resume events in the coming weeks, and she said that many are amenable to allowing temperatures of all the guests to be taken before they enter the facility, as well as asking anyone experiencing symptoms to stay home. Lastly, Sweeny told the task force that she has the list of names of all attendees, which would make them more prepared than a restaurant if and when it comes to assisting with contact tracing.

At the conclusion of the hearing, Chairman Zeltwanger did not provide any indication of when the next hearing will be.

**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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