



**Seneca County EMA Situation Report #147**

**COVID-19 Response**

**May 28st, 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: 908,008 (+13,191 in the last 7 days)**  
**Probable: 179,113**  
**Confirmed Ohio Resident deaths: 19,753**  
**Deaths in Ohio: 19,748**

**Seneca County: LEVEL 1 Ohio's Public Health Advisory System**

**Metrics (as of 05/27)**

DATE	5/24	5/25	5/26	5/27
TOTAL CASES	5445	5445	5456	5459
ACTIVE CASES	12	12	22	20
CONFIRMED	3318	3318	3325	3327
PROBABLE	2127	2127	2131	2132
MALES	2425	2425	2430	2431
FEMALES	3020	3020	3026	3028
CURRENTLY HOSPITALIZED	4	4	4	3
RECOVERED	5289	5289	5290	5294
DEATHS	144	144	144	145

**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)**

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## Executive Summary

**(5/24/21) GOVERNOR:** Governor DeWine announced the first winner of the Vax-A-Million sweepstakes will be announced Wednesday. 2,758,470 Ohioans are registered for the first \$1 million drawing and 104,386 young Ohioans are registered for the first college scholarship drawing. As a result of the drawings, vaccinations have greatly increased across populations.

Following CDC guidance, the Governor also provided clarification for local school districts:

- For unvaccinated students, isolation and quarantine will be conducted as they were before COVID-19 and then as they were under health orders.
- Vaccinated students do not need to quarantine if they come into contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19.
- Beginning June 2<sup>nd</sup>, school districts will have discretion about whether to continue masking and social distancing.

**VACCINE:** In an effort to increase vaccination rates among Medicaid beneficiaries, the Governor challenged managed care plans to ramp up their efforts. Plans have been offering gift cards, ensuring transportation is available, tailoring strategies to meet people where they are, and creating vaccine opportunities outside of normal business hours.

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

The Seneca County Board of Commissioners heard a brief update from Mircea Handru, the executive director for the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Seneca, Sandusky and Wyandot Counties, Thursday morning.

Handru said the potential addition of Ottawa County's mental health board is still pending. He said all paperwork had been submitted to the state. Officials hope the merger can occur before July 1.

Handru was joined by New Housing Ohio Regional Manager Heather Pollick to provide updates on several housing programs. The pair shared success stories on several mental health and recovery group homes throughout Seneca County. Handru said that a large majority of residents are rent compliant and are working full-time jobs as they work through their recovery.

In other business, the commissioners held a work session to discuss potential uses for \$10.7 million in federal American Rescue Plan funds.

Last week, the county received the first of two identical \$5,358,840 disbursements. On Thursday

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County Administrator Stacy Wilson shared some of the guidance provided by the federal government, including some categorizations from the National Association of Counties (NaCO). There are seven classifications on how the funding can be used: 1. Support of the public health response to COVID-19 pandemic; 2. Support businesses, citizens and other entities in mitigating the negative economic ramifications of the health crisis; 3. Premium pay for work performed by employees of state, local or tribal governments; 4. Payroll expenses for public health and safety service employees; 5. The replacement of public sector revenue losses; 6. Water and sewer infrastructure; and 7. Rural broadband internet infrastructure.

The board discussed some general ideas, including a \$2,000 premium payment to county employees under the commissioners' purview (about 362 employees). The cost would be about \$724,000.

Wilson said the payments could be modeled off a similar program the city of Tiffin approved earlier this year. The commissioners agreed it could be a good use of the funds to reward employees for the heightened risk of infection and additional workload created by the health crisis.

The board did not act Thursday morning because funding cannot be put into place until after the next Budget Commission meeting on June 2. Another option for the funding could include capital improvement requests made by Seneca County Sheriff Fred Stevens.

In other action, Board President Mike Kerschner said he and Commissioner Anthony Paradiso spent time in Columbus on Tuesday as Kerschner testified in favor of substitute Senate Bill 52. Kerschner said the legislation being proposed would take steps toward giving local citizens and governments more influence on the fate of alternative energy projects in their area.

Also during the session, the commissioners encouraged county residents to come to the Frost Parkway area and the Seneca County Museum on Memorial Day for some planned events to honor soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the country. Events are scheduled from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., including tours at the museum from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. This will mark the first time the museum has been open since March of 2020.

**During new business, the board approved all new business from the pre-meeting.**

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

The latest Vaccination numbers for Seneca County are as follows: 33.75% (18,620) 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](http://senecacountyema.org)

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**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.

### **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.

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For more information, please point your browser at:

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

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

**This situation report will be published weekly on Fridays or 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](mailto:jspahr@senecacountyohio.gov).**

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