



Seneca County EMA Situation Report #76
COVID-19 Response
August 13th, 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: 99-856 (+3,498 in the last 72 hours)
Probable: 5,570
Confirmed Deaths: 3,481
Probable Deaths: 278

Seneca County: LEVEL 2 PUBLIC EMERGENCY [Ohio's Public Health Advisory System](#) NEW

Metrics (as of 8/12)

Total Cases: 243
Active Cases: 97
Deaths: 8
Recovered: 138
Hospitalized: 11

Resources:

Ohio ODH: coronavirus.ohio.gov

CDC: CDC.gov

Seneca County General Health District: senecahealthdistrict.org

Executive Summary

8/13/20 GOVERNOR: Governor DeWine discussed in his press conference today that the immediate health impacts of COVID-19 are now being seen as a concerning issue in athletes. DeWine made note that the American Journal of Cardiology published an expert analysis last month that addresses the impact of Coronavirus on the heart.

Governor DeWine also mentioned today the top ten Ohio counties ranked by highest occurrence over the past two weeks. The counties include: Mercer, Champaign, Lawrence, Darke, Lucas, Perry, Franklin, Meigs, Seneca, and Fairfield.

Governor DeWine discussed that the Minority Health Strike Task Force will be releasing its final report today. The report has 34 recommendations on dismantling racism, removing public health obstacles, improving the social/economic and physical environments, and strengthening data collection

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to better track disparities. Governor DeWine is challenging JobsOhio and Ohio Development Services Agency to focus on how to get more minorities into business. DeWine is also challenging the Ohio Department of Health and Ohio EPA to do more to address the lead paint problem in Ohio.

DeWine spoke about the creation of the Ohio Governor's Equity Advisory Board, a permanent, ongoing group to help guide while addressing the underlying conditions and root causes contributing to disparities in life and health in Ohio. Director Ursel McElroy, Ohio Department of Aging, spoke on the specific commitments of Governor DeWine's Cabinet, which will help to improve the health and well-being of all Ohioans, address inequalities, and promote more diversity and inclusion.

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY SYSTEM: The Public Health Advisory System map has been updated to show 12 counties that are at the red level. Brown, Clermont, and Muskingum counties have been elevated to red, while Allen and Media counties have gone from red to orange. Nine counties have dropped from orange to yellow, including: Adams, Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Knox, Lake, Paulding, Pike, and Williams.

Seneca County Commissioners: www.senecacountyohio.gov

The Seneca County Board of Commissioners reviewed and accepted the findings of a multi-jurisdictional, countywide comprehensive plan Thursday morning.

The plan, which was completed in June by CT Consultants, began development in March 2018. The plan includes the county, the city of Tiffin, Fostoria Economic Development Corp. and the Seneca County Park District.

The roughly \$120,000 plan includes strategies for housing, commercial and industrial development, education, transportation, parks and recreation, and arts and culture.

Tiffin-Seneca Economic Partnership President and CEO David Zak commended the commissioners and all other stakeholders for working hard on the plan. He also thanked Seneca Regional Planning Commission Executive Director Charlene Watkins and her team for overseeing the process that led to the creation of the plan. More than 1,000 county residents participated and contributed to the plan.

"This plan will be an incredible roadmap for Seneca County," Zak said.

The commissioners anticipate that the plan will be a guiding document for the next 15-20 years. The plan, which features more than 150 strategies, has individual sections for each of the entities that were involved with the project. The county's vision statement in the plan is, "to be an inclusive community that celebrates and brings to life both its rural and urban cultural heritage: fostering active lifestyles by improving access to existing natural resources for all county residents; and supporting a robust and innovative local economy that both integrates with and helps lead the regional economy." In other business, the board agreed to move forward in its exploration of an energy program that could potentially save the county money on utility costs.

In June, a representative from Palmer Energy introduced the program to the commissioners. Palmer Energy partners with the County Commissioners Association of Ohio to help manage a natural gas and electric program for member counties. Seneca County has opted into this program, which is designed to help save money on natural gas and electric bills by using the strength of group buying.

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Palmer is working with CCAO to install a solar array in the state to offer a hedge for counties and cities using the company for energy aggregation.

Under the program, about 20-25 percent of energy would be provided through a solar power purchasing agreement by governmental entities. Palmer representatives believe the arrangement could save money over time and could also offer a degree of diversification to the energy portfolio of those involved.

The commissioners agreed to sign a letter of intent, but they do not need to commit to the program until they have a better idea of what the final cost would be.

Also during the meeting, the commissioners received an update from County Administrator Stacy Wilson about the Coronavirus Relief Fund Committee. The committee met Monday to begin discussions on applications received from departments for funding. The county received about \$923,000 in federal money to be used for previously unbudgeted expenditures brought about by the health crisis.

Applications from departments are due Aug. 31, and the committee is to continue meeting to decide if applications are allowable by state and federal law. Once approved by the committee, the commissioners will have the final authority on if funding will be awarded to projects.

About \$90,000 of requests had been received by the committee as of Thursday. Wilson said departments also have recorded about \$270,000 in COVID-related expenses since March. There also is an unknown amount of money in payroll that is eligible to be reimbursed through the fund. A report from last month showed about \$400,000 committed to payroll that could be reimbursed.

In new business, the commissioners approved:

- * A \$5,104 supplemental appropriation to the Seneca County Sewer District Fund for capital improvements.
- * Appointing attorney Rhonda L. Best as special prosecutor on behalf of the Seneca County Prosecutor's Office.
- * An agreement with Stantec Consulting Services for general services effective Jan. 1 of this year on behalf of the Seneca County Airport.

Seneca County General Health District: www.senecahealthdept.org

The Health Department reports 243 total confirmed cases of the COVID-19 virus since March with a current count of 97 active cases. 138 people have recovered from the illness and 8 have 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 the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. Videos will be archived on Facebook and can be viewed live on the Health Department's and Commissioner's FB pages.

Emergency Management Agency

SCAM ALERT: There are a number of ever evolving scams related to the current pandemic. Remember that during contact tracing no legitimate health department will ask you for insurance, medicare or credit card information. You can learn about current scams at

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[oig.hhs.gov/coronavirus/fraud-alert-covid19.asp](https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/fraud-alert-covid19.asp) and report suspicious phone calls or contacts with suspected scammers by calling 800.447.8477.

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.

Seneca County Fair: senecacountyfair.org

Seneca County Regional Planning: senecarpc.org

Blood Collection: www.redcross.org

For a limited time, your blood donation will include an antibody test with results returned to you through your Red Cross Donor App. Go to redcrossblood.org for more information.

Blood Collection Screeners Needed: COVID-19 has disrupted our daily lives, but the need for lifesaving blood hasn't changed. To help protect everyone's safety, we have a need for Donor Screener volunteers (ages 18+) to take the temperatures of blood donors entering American Red Cross blood drives or donation centers.

In this volunteer position you can volunteer just once or multiple times, the choice is yours!

Apply now at www.redcross.org/volunteer

For more information or questions, please contact Melanie Collins at Melanie.Collins4@redcross.org or 330-204-6615.

Mental Health and Recovery Board of Seneca, Sandusky and Wyandot Counties: www.mhrsbsw.org

City of Tiffin: www.tiffinohio.gov

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

UNEMPLOYMENT: Ohioans filed 20,969 initial applications for unemployment compensation last week, according to the Department of Jobs and Family Services.

The total represented a reduction of about 5,000 from the previous week, when there were 25,952 new claims.

ODJFS reported workers filed 374,751 continued jobless claims last week – 401,551 fewer than the state's peak earlier this year.

The department said that it has sent more than \$5.9 billion in unemployment compensation payments to more than 778,000 Ohioans over the past 21 weeks.

The U.S. Department of Labor reported 963,000 new claims for unemployment compensation were filed nationwide last week, down from about 1.2 million the previous week.

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

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

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

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 by 2:30 p.m. each publishing day.

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