



**Seneca County EMA Situation Report #78**  
**COVID-19 Response**  
**August 20th, 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: 104,999 (+5,143 in the last 72 hours)**  
**Probable: 5,882**  
**Confirmed Deaths: 3,627**  
**Probable Deaths: 280**

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

**Metrics (as of 8/14)**

**Total Cases: 284 (+25)**  
**Active Cases: 94 (-10)**  
**Deaths: 11 (+2)**  
**Recovered: 179 (+33)**  
**Hospitalized: 10 (-1)**

**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**

**8/20/20** Governor DeWine released the latest comparison of the Public Health Advisory System map vs. the Education Model for Start of School Year 2021 map, and reminded that if there is significant spread in your community, it is impossible to keep the spread of out of the schools. The map has been placed below to view.

Governor DeWine discussed legislation today that is pending in the General Assembly, that will help keep those most likely to commit gun violence off the streets. DeWine mentioned that murders are up in Ohio, and the majority of victims are African Americans.

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Governor DeWine announced that adult day care centers and senior centers may open at a reduced capacity beginning on September 21, 2020, if they are able to meet certain safety standards. Specific guidelines will be released soon. Some reopening requirements include: Limited capacity; Limited entry sites; Daily screenings; Baseline and repeat testing; Face coverings; Cohorting; and Thorough cleaning.

Also announced by Governor DeWine is a statewide testing initiative for Ohio's 765+ assisted living facilities that is now underway. Baseline saliva testing will be offered to all assisted living staff and residents at no cost to the facilities. The tests can be self-performed or performed with assistance, under the observance of licensed medical staff. The tests are minimally invasive and provide reliable results in about 48 hours upon the lab's receipt. An order will be issued soon requiring all facilities to participate.

Governor DeWine has asked Ohio Department of Administrative Services to work with Secretary of State Frank LaRose to ensure the 88 boards of elections have the PPE resources they need to execute early in-person voting and voting on election day.

DeWine has also asked the Ohio BWC to send up to \$1.5 billion in dividend payments to Ohio employers this fall. If approved, this will be the second dividend of \$1 billion or more since April, and third since 2019. Governor DeWine is also asking BWC to vote to distribute a second round of face coverings to Ohio employers and their workforce. They've already shipped 20.6 million masks to 197,000 employers and their workforce since May.

Lt. Governor Husted discussed the K-12 BroadbandOhio Connectivity Grant, which enables hotspots and internet-enabled devices to students. A total of \$50 million is available for help, and the deadline is August 21, 2020.

Lt. Governor Husted announced that Ohio BMV has implemented a new print-on-demand temporary tag through OPLATES.com, allowing customers to print their temporary tag without going into a Deputy Registrar.

**OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH:** Ohio Department of Health Interim Director Lance Himes has signed the Director's Order that Provides Mandatory Requirements for Youth, Collegiate, Amateur, Club, and Professional Sports. This order has also been added to the Executive Order section below.

**PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY SYSTEM:** The Public Health Advisory System map has been updated to show 9 counties that are at the red level – the lowest number since starting the system. Clark, Lorain, Preble, and Trumbull counties have been elevated to red, while Clermont, Erie, Franklin, Lucas, and Mercer continue at the red level. Seven counties have been reduced from red to orange, and six counties have been reduced from orange to yellow.

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

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The Seneca County Board of Commissioners agreed to bring back some employees after hearing a positive financial update Thursday morning.

In April, the commissioners formalized \$2 million in budget cuts due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The cuts included a 20-percent decrease to salaries across county departments.

On Thursday, County Administrator Stacy Wilson presented the August sales tax report, which due to a lag in the time it takes for counties to receive sales tax funding, represents some of May and most of June's tax receipts.

Following the report, the commissioners agreed to bring the Seneca County Sheriff's Office and the Seneca County Youth Center back to 100-percent employment. The board agreed to wait for more information from the Sept. 9 Seneca County Budget Commission meeting before making further decisions about staffing.

Wilson said the county received \$855,028.06 in sales tax for August, which is about 12.7 percent higher than the \$758,970.14 collected in August 2019. The figure marked the best August sales tax number in the past seven years.

August's figure followed two of the worst months in the past seven years, as July was down 9 percent compared to July 2019 and June was down 16 percent compared to June 2019.

Before the pandemic began to affect the local economy, the county was on pace for a record-setting year for sales tax receipts. At the end of April, the county had received more than \$3.1 million in sales tax receipts, which was 6.5 percent higher than the total through the same period in 2019.

Some officials from across the state believe the strong August sales tax figure was a product of pent-up demand and new federal money being infused into communities.

The August sales tax figure would represent the time when Ohio businesses began to reopen after the COVID-19 shutdown. According to information from the U.S. Small Business Administration, 48 Seneca County businesses received SBA loans of at least \$150,000 to help with payroll. The loans reportedly helped to retain 4,550 jobs and brought between \$28 million and \$70 million of new funds into the community. A rough estimate also shows that about \$24 million was infused into the local economy through federal stimulus checks.

One other caveat to note is that higher unemployment figures may have helped the local economy during the pandemic due to the additional \$600 a week in federal unemployment offered through the CARES Act. Many employees received an increase in pay for being unemployed or underemployed during this time. Local officials say it is difficult to estimate how much new funding this brought into the local economy, but it likely was a significant amount and could have contributed to the positive August sales tax report.

Some worry that as the economy normalizes and the federal assistance leaves the community, the overall size of the local economy will shrink, and sales tax receipts could suffer in the long-term. Some businesses and jobs that were lost due to the pandemic may not return soon.

Commissioner Anthony Paradiso said he was encouraged by the positive August sales tax report, but he urged the board to stay cautious and skeptical, and to continue to closely follow financial reports. For more data related to the county's financial situation, see this attachment.

In other business, the commissioners agreed to approve about \$114,000 for various projects to be paid for out of Coronavirus Relief Funds. Projects included for deep cleaning, personal protective

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equipment and technology upgrades to deal with remote working for several departments. The county received about \$923,000 through the CARES Act, and officials are continuing to decide how to spend the money. Some payroll is eligible to be reimbursed, and Seneca Regional Planning Commission has also submitted a federal grant application in hopes of reimbursing payroll for safety services.

Also during the meeting, personnel from Tiffin-Seneca Economic Partnership presented a quarterly report.

President and CEO David Zak discussed the overall development and growth of the organization while thanking the county for its partnership with T-SEP. The commissioners also heard from Development Managers Audrey Flood and Nick Dutro, Downtown Main Street Manager Amy Reinhart and Businesses Services Consultant Carol Kern.

In new business, the commissioners approved:

- \* A \$150,000 supplemental appropriation to the General Fund.
- \* A \$22,053.77 fund advance from the General Fund to the Bulletproof Vest Fund.
- \* A \$7,351.26 fund transfer to the Bulletproof Vest Fund.
- \* Designating the official representative and alternate for voting at the CORSA annual membership meeting for 2020.
- \* Designating the official representative and alternate for voting at the County Commissioners Association of Ohio annual meeting for 2020.

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

The Health Department reports 284 total confirmed cases of the COVID-19 virus since March with a current count of 94 active cases. 179 people have recovered from the illness and 11 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 [oig.hhs.gov/coronavirus/fraud-alert-covid19.asp](http://oig.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](mailto:jspahr@senecacountyohio.gov).

**Seneca County Fair:** [senecacountyfair.org](http://senecacountyfair.org)

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**Seneca County Regional Planning:** [senecarpc.org](http://senecarpc.org)

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

For more information or questions, please contact Melanie Collins at [Melanie.Collins4@redcross.org](mailto:Melanie.Collins4@redcross.org) or 330-204-6615.

**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/>

Ohioans filed 21,663 initial claims for unemployment compensation last week, the Department of Job and Family Services reported Thursday.

The total represents a slight increase compared with the previous week when residents submitted 20,969 new applications.

Ohioans filed 359,585 continued jobless claims last week – 416,717 fewer than the state's peak earlier this year, according to the latest data from ODJFS.

The agency said it has sent more than \$6 billion in unemployment compensation payments to more than 784,000 Ohioans over the past 22 weeks.

The U.S. Department of Labor reported 1.1 million new jobless claims were submitted nationwide last week, up from 971,000 the prior week.

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

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

**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.**

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**EMA**

SENECA COUNTY

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

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