



Seneca County EMA Situation Report #80
COVID-19 Response
August 27th, 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: 112,489 (+7,490 in the last 72 hours)
Probable: 6,339
Confirmed Deaths: 3,791
Probable Deaths: 285

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

Metrics (as of 8/24)

Total Cases: 356 (+4)
Active Cases: 112 (-12)
Deaths: 12 (no change)
Recovered: 232 (+16)
Hospitalized: 9 (-1)

Resources:

Ohio ODH: coronavirus.ohio.gov

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

Seneca County General Health District: senecahealthdistrict.org

Executive Summary

8/27/20 GOVERNOR: Governor DeWine had a number of school administrators join him for today's press conference, as well as some college and university faculty. All discussed the various approach that their schools have taken to curb the spread of the illness on campuses.

DeWine announced that for K-12 schools he will be issuing an order to require reporting of cases on a school basis, however this reporting will not include identities of students. He says this will be a tool to "make sure the public is informed with what's going on with the students in the school." Schools will be able to decide how that information is released.

Lt. Gov. Husted said Ohio has been approved to start making an additional unemployment compensation payment of \$300 a week under an executive order by the President. Husted says the payments will be retroactive to August 1. Ohioans will likely receive it in mid-late September.

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PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY MAP: Ohio's latest health advisory map has 6 red counties (level 3), which is the lowest number of red counties since the alert system started. Notably, Montgomery County has returned to red as a result of the daily case average increasing, and Franklin County has been reduced to orange (level 2).

An updated map can be found attached.

Seneca County Commissioners: www.senecacountyohio.gov

The Seneca County Board of Commissioners heard from Seneca County Emergency Services Director Ken Majors about the current state of EMS in the county and pondered the future of county ambulance services Thursday morning.

Majors' report began with a presentation from Coshocton County EMS Director Todd Shroyer. Majors said Shroyer's experiences in Coshocton could be valuable in learning from as Seneca County officials consider making changes to its ambulance services.

Shroyer said Seneca County EMS is in a similar situation to what Coshocton EMS was in about 30 years ago when the department was staffed entirely by volunteers. Due to a downturn in volunteerism, the county decided to work with a private ambulance company, before eventually starting a full-time, county-paid ambulance service.

Shroyer said working with a private company eventually was not sustainable economically, and this is part of the reason the county moved back to a full-time, county-paid service.

He said the department now has four full-time ambulances stationed around the county of about 36,000 people. It costs about \$2.6 million annually to run the department.

Majors thanked all the EMS volunteers who have made Seneca County EMS a success for more than 40 years. He said that although volunteerism has dwindled, the current group is still getting the job done. The reason for bringing up the issue, Majors said, was to respond to current trends to sustainably provide service in the long-term.

In 2007, there were about 160 EMS volunteers on the roster and in 2014, there were still 140 EMS volunteers. The latest count of the EMS volunteer roster is about 74 people, with about 40 actively working on squad runs during 2020 across the six ambulances in the county.

Majors' goal for moving forward with Seneca County EMS comes following years of research and by following best practices within the EMS industry. He suggested the county move to a full-time, paid department by forming a countywide joint ambulance district that would invite all political subdivisions in the county except the city of Tiffin or Fostoria, since those entities already have full-time, paid EMS service.

Under Majors' proposal, the county would strategically place four full-time ambulances in the county, with two on the east side and two on the west. There would also be a backup ambulance on the east and west side, which would be staffed by volunteers. The system would also be supported by the current full-time Echo unit paramedic, which would assist crews with field leadership and experience. Majors said this system would solidify the long-term sustainability of EMS services in the county.

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“I’m not saying volunteerism is dead, we’re just worried about the trends we see in the data that we’ve developed in the past 10 years,” he said. We want to augment and supplement those volunteers, so they have the staffing that they need, when they most need it, at the most critical time.”

Majors mentioned a Bloomville-area volunteer, who volunteers an average of 160 hours every two weeks. This system could relieve some of the burden placed on the backs of volunteers, while still allowing them to provide their time and talent to the EMS system. An advantage Seneca County EMS has always had with its volunteer-based system is the passion, dedication and local knowledge displayed by volunteers who are doing the job for their families, friends and neighbors. Majors said it’s important the county does not lose this aspect and that it continues to support volunteers.

The proposal, or long-term goal, provided by Majors would cost about \$3.2 million annually, but he said it’s a model that the county should strive for, even if it only happens in increments. Right now, the townships throughout the county pay varying levels for service, while the commissioners add about \$320,000 to the budget annually. The commissioners handle equipment, training and building maintenance while the townships/joint ambulance districts provide volunteer personnel.

Chris Daniel, of Bascom Joint Fire District, read a statement from Bascom fire and EMS personnel, asking the county to open the discussion up to all stakeholders in the county.

Commissioner Mike Kerschner said the board would like to hear from as many people as possible as it ponders the future of EMS in Seneca County. At the end of the discussion, the commissioners agreed to work on scheduling a lengthy session to discuss the future of EMS with all interested parties in the county.

In other business, the commissioners agreed to move forward by advancing funds for a taxiway improvement project at the Seneca County Airport. While resurfacing the taxiway earlier this year, crews came across some issues with the subsurface under the taxiway. The taxiway has been closed since mid-June because of this issue. The board agreed to pay about \$263,000 to fix the problem to re-open the taxiway. The county will be reimbursed for the cost of the project over the next few years with its Federal Aviation Administration allocations. The commissioners also agreed to apply for grants to fix the underlying problem that led to the issue, which is poor drainage in some areas.

Also during the meeting, the board approved \$19,763 in additional CARES Act funding requests from departments and also approved a proclamation congratulating all Seneca County 4-H students who received an “A” grade on their projects.

In other action, the commissioners briefly discussed the museum but made no decisions related to it. Commissioner Shayne Thomas shared this document with the board, as a proposal on how to move forward.

During new business, the commissioners approved:

- * A \$45,371.20 supplemental appropriation to the Maintenance and Repair Fund for contract projects.
- * A \$28,862.50 supplemental appropriation to the General Fund for the Youth Center, including for salaries, Medicare and PERS.
- * An \$896.45 supplemental appropriation to the General Fund for admin fees.
- * A \$481.45 supplemental appropriation to the County Sewer District Fund for other expenses.
- * A \$456,938.74 supplemental appropriation to the General Fund for the Seneca County Sheriff’s Office, including money for salaries, Medicare and PERS.

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Seneca County General Health District: www.senecahealthdept.org

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 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 18,988 initial applications for unemployment compensation last week, according to the Department of Job and Family Services. The total represented a decline of about 12% from the previous week, when the state received 21,663 new jobless claims.

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Ohioans filed 344,409 continued claims last week – down 431,893 from the state's peak earlier this year, according to the latest data from ODJFS. The agency reported it has sent more than \$6.1 billion in unemployment compensation payments to more than 790,000 workers over the last 23 weeks.

The U.S. Department of Labor reported just over 1 million new jobless claims were filed nationwide last week, down about 98,000 from the previous week.

Seneca County's unemployment for July is 8.1%

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.

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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