



**Seneca County EMA Situation Report #82**  
**COVID-19 Response**  
**September 3rd, 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: 120,471 (+3,805 in the last 72 hours)**  
**Probable: 6,641**  
**Confirmed Deaths: 3,939**  
**Probable Deaths: 287**

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

**Metrics (as of 9/2)**

**Total Cases: 384 (+8)**  
**Active Cases: 46 (-7)**  
**Deaths: 13 (+/-0)**  
**Recovered: 325 (+15)**  
**Hospitalized: 5 (+/-0)**

**Resources:**

**Ohio ODH: [coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://coronavirus.ohio.gov)**

**CDC: [CDC.gov](http://CDC.gov)**

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

**Executive Summary**

**8/31/20 GOVERNOR:** DeWine today implored Ohioans to continue to act responsibly and social distance through Labor Day Weekend. Knowing the spike that resulted following July 4th and Memorial Day weekend, the Governor encouraged families to refrain from attending large gatherings and parties.

**PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY:** The administration today updated the Public Health Advisory Map. This week, Putnam, Wayne and Butler counties have all been elevated to the red level. Both Lorain and Erie counties have been downgraded from the red level. A new map can be found attached.

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

The Seneca County Board of Commissioners approved an additional \$181,950.11 of CARES Act funding for county projects during Thursday morning's meeting.

The newest approvals mean the county has committed to spending \$288,783.39 of the roughly \$923,000 received by the county in the first wave of CARES Act funding from the state and federal government.

Projects that were approved include safety services payroll, sanitation, masks and cleaning supplies; deep cleaning of heating ducts and airflow systems; Zoom subscriptions for online meetings; laptops and equipment for employees working at home and equipment to take temperatures of people entering buildings.

County Administrator Stacy Wilson informed the board that the county is to receive an additional \$461,945.15 in the second wave of payments through the CARES Act. A third wave also is expected.

The county is relying on a Coronavirus Relief Fund Committee to decide what projects are allowable by law before the commissioners vote on the approval of funding. A good portion of the money above what has already been committed is likely accounted for, as several county departments coded hundreds of thousands of dollars in expenses as being due to COVID-19, but the CRF Committee is awaiting official requests on those expenses before they reach the board.

County officials also are holding back some expenses as they await the status of applications for other grants, which would mean the county could then use the CARES Act funding for other projects. The commissioners discussed creating programs that could lend direct assistance to business owners and residents if there is leftover money available.

In other business, Commissioner Mike Kerschner presented his thoughts on the museum situation, suggesting that the county accept the Barnes-Deinzer Seneca County Museum Foundation's proposal to take over operations at the museum. Kerschner presented this document.

He said when he removed emotions and personalities from the situation, he found that the foundation's offer was the most logical path forward because it is in the best interest of county taxpayers. He said he believes the resources offered by the foundation would reduce the financial burden on the taxpayers, while also increasing the probability of the long-term viability of the museum. Kerschner said the annual cost of the museum is about \$70,000, adding that he thought that money could be put to better use, as the foundation takes on those costs.

"The savings created by this decision would allow the county to use those funds on other pressing matters, like EMS coverage or sheriff's office training, equipment and personnel," he said. Commissioner Shayne Thomas gave some positive and some negative feedback on the plan and Commissioner Tony Paradiso asked for more time to consider both sides of the issue. The board is expected to continue its discussion on the matter next week.

Also during the meeting, some of the planned agenda topics were moved to next week, as the commissioners' office experienced a power outage just before the meeting, leading to device battery issues.

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During new business, the commissioners approved:

- \* A \$5,500 supplemental appropriation to the Special Projects Fund for equipment.
- \* A \$150,000 fund transfer to the Children Services Fund. Seneca County Department of Job and Family Services Director Kathy Oliver explained that the money was needed as costs for foster care have increased during the pandemic.
- \* The 2020 sewer rates for 23/224 Sewer District beginning in the fourth quarter.
- \* Certifying unpaid assessments to the county auditor for collection, per ORC 6117.02.

**Seneca County General Health District:** [www.senecahealthdept.org](http://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](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 twice a week on Mondays and Thursdays. Please continue to send your information to be shared with our partners to [jspahr@senecacountyohio.gov](mailto:jspahr@senecacountyohio.gov).

**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)

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

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

**UNEMPLOYMENT:** Ohioans filed 18,719 initial applications for unemployment compensation last week, according to the Department of Job and Family Services. The total represented a slight decline from the prior week when residents filed 18,988 new jobless claims.

ODJFS reported Ohioans filed 339,957 continued claims last week, down 436,345 from the state's peak earlier this year. The agency said it has sent more than \$6.2 billion in unemployment compensation payments to more than 795,000 Ohioans over the last 24 weeks.

The U.S. Department of Labor reported 881,000 new jobless applications were filed nationwide last week, down from 1.01 million the previous week.

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

**Tiffin-Seneca Public Library:** <http://tiffinsenecalibrary.org>

Last fall, the Tiffin-Seneca Public Library hosted several programs to increase awareness of mental health issues and to reduce the stigma of talking about mental health and seeking help. We welcomed Kevin Hines, a suicide survivor who travels the world sharing his story of hope, healing, and recovery, as our third annual Foundation Speaker. Hundreds of people in our community attended these events. Because of COVID-19, people are experiencing even more mental health challenges as they battle isolation and depression, face serious health and financial concerns, and struggle with the stress of navigating daily life.

The Tiffin-Seneca Public Library is committed to helping our community during this time by "Continuing the Conversation" about mental health and will collaborate with community organizations to present a series of online events. Due to current social distancing guidelines, the Tiffin-Seneca Public Library is not hosting any in-person programming for the time being. The events will be conducted via Zoom and streamed live on Facebook.

Please find flyer attached to this email.

**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](mailto:jspahr@senecacountyohio.gov) by 2:30 p.m. each publishing day.**

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