



Seneca County EMA Situation Report #88
COVID-19 Response
September 24th, 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: 139,632 (+2,323 in the last 72 hours)
Probable: 8,112
Confirmed Deaths: 4,414
Probable Deaths: 301

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

Metrics (as of 9/23)

Total Cases: 471 (+22)
Active Cases: 61 (-3)
Deaths: 16 (+1)
Recovered: 415 (+23)
Hospitalized: 1 (-2)

Resources:

Ohio ODH: coronavirus.ohio.gov

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

Seneca County General Health District: senecahealthdistrict.org

Executive Summary

GOVERNOR: With the help of the Department of Aging Director, Ursel McElroy and Department of Developmental Disabilities Director, Jeff Davis, DeWine announced today that visitation at nursing homes and developmental disabilities will resume October 12th.

Outdoor visitations have been allowed since the beginning of June, however, today's announcement allows nursing homes to allow indoor visitation. McElroy says the facility will have to consider its COVID case level, staffing level, testing capacity, PPE supply, hospital space in the community when deciding when or how to allow visitors.

Visitors will be required to be screened, sign in, schedule, sanitation must be done and visitors will be required to wear a mask when visiting someone in nursing/assisted living facilities. The facilities will be required to report data to the state to help family members determine the information they need to decide whether and when to visit. This will be on a dashboard like other state information.

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PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY SYSTEM: In today's updated health advisory map counties that have been increased to red, include Ashland, Delaware, Pike, Scioto and Stark counties. Those remaining at red include Butler, Mercer, Montgomery and Putnam counties. Portage county was downgraded from red to orange.

Seneca County Commissioners: www.senecacountyohio.gov

The Seneca County Board of Commissioners heard a positive economic development report Thursday morning from Fostoria Economic Development Corp. President Renee Smith. Smith's report, which is part of a regular routine of updating the commissioners on the economic development happenings in Fostoria, included updates from FEDC, the Fostoria Learning Center, the Community Improvement Corporation, the Fostoria Chamber of Commerce and the Seneca County Land Bank. FEDC has collaborative relationships with each of the aforementioned entities, as they all work in concert to improve Fostoria.

Smith highlighted several key projects, including a \$9.5 million expansion project by Mennel Milling. She also updated the commissioners on a 100,000-square-foot spec building that has many interested potential buyers. Smith said Fostoria has seen an increase in property values this year. "I think Seneca County is rocking it with some of these new and innovative programs," Smith said. Smith highlighted the downtown parkette project, which is to be officially unveiled on Oct. 10. She also mentioned some successes of the Land Bank, including the demolition of blighted and dilapidated properties across the county. The most recent project mentioned by Smith was the demolition of the former Ruffing Family Care Center on CR 6. The property is to be converted by the Seneca County Park District into an easily accessible public river access point.

During the report, Smith asked the commissioners and the public to support the Geary Family YMCA in its efforts to land a \$25,000 grant for a teen drop-in center. The grant, which is provided by State Farm, will award funding to the top-40 voted on projects online. Be sure to vote for the Fostoria project here: <https://www.neighborhoodassist.com/entry/2034590>.

In other business, County Administrator Stacy Wilson said the Coronavirus Relief Fund Committee recommended approval for about \$67,000 in projects. This brings the county's total through the federal grant program to about \$451,000. Several other potential expenditures are pending for the program, as the county waits for a third and final wave of payments to be distributed. In the first two waves, the county was awarded nearly \$1.4 million.

In other action, Commissioner Shayne Thomas pitched an idea on how to gradually increase the county's commitment to Seneca County EMS, by providing more full-time paid personnel to supplement the volunteers who currently run the system.

The commissioners held two feedback sessions on Tuesday to solicit feedback related to the past, present and future of Seneca County EMS. The meetings, which were attended by nearly 300 people, featured feedback from officials from across the county and from many volunteers. Thomas presented a PowerPoint entitled, "Five-year, ten-million-dollar flexible framework for volunteer sustainability that does not raise taxes."

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Thomas asked Wilson and Seneca County Emergency Services Director Ken Majors to consider his proposal and make tweaks to it. The plan's goal is to increase in-service times and to sustain quality EMS service into the future. You can view the PowerPoint presentation [here](#).

During the meeting, the commissioners did not substantively discuss the Seneca County Museum, but Thomas announced a townhall-style Zoom session for Tuesday at 11 so the board can receive feedback related to the issue. Information on how to participate in the meeting will be sent out by the commissioners' office soon.

During new business, the commissioners approved:

- * A \$60,000 supplemental appropriation to the General Fund for unemployment expenses.
- * Assessment refunds as determined by the Seneca Conservation District.
- * Setting Oct. 22 at 10:30 a.m. to receive statements of qualification for architectural, engineering and planning consultant services for the Seneca County Airport.

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

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.

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

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City of Tiffin: www.tiffinohio.gov

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

Ohioans filed 17,435 initial applications for unemployment compensation last week, according to the Department of Job and Family Services. The total represented an increase of 1,141, or about 7%, from the previous week.

ODJFS reported residents last week filed 321,057 continued jobless claims, which was 455,245 fewer than the state's peak earlier this year. The agency said it has sent more than \$6.6 billion in unemployment compensation payments to more than 809,000 claimants over the last 27 weeks.

The U.S. Department of Labor reported 870,000 initial jobless claims were filed nationwide last week, up 4,000 from the previous week's revised total.

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

Tiffin-Seneca Public Library: <http://tiffinsenecalibrary.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.