EMA
SENECA COUNTY

Seneca County EMA Situation Report #96
COVID-19 Response
October 22nd, 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: **165,627 (+13,797 in the last 72 hours)**
Probable: **11,006**
Confirmed Deaths: **4,850**
Probable Deaths: **311**

Seneca County: LEVEL 2 (High Incidence) PUBLIC EMERGENCY Ohio's Public Health Advisory System
Metrics (as of 10/19)
Total Cases: **636 (+31)**
Active Cases: **96 (+26)**
Deaths: **19 (+2)**
Recovered: **521 (+3)**
Hospitalized: **8 (+2)**

Resources:
Ohio ODH: coronavirus.ohio.gov
CDC: CDC.gov
Seneca County General Health District: senecahealthdistrict.org

Executive Summary
GOVERNOR: Governor Chris Christie joined Governor DeWine at the top of his press conference today saying he was wrong for not wearing a mask during his time spent at the White House and warned how easily it can spread if you let your guard down. Christie talked about the "freight train" of symptoms that he experienced four days after leaving the White House, which led to hospitalization.

Christie's confession that he should have worn a mask comes as Ohio again sets a daily record in cases with an increase of 2,425.

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY SYSTEM: The newly published health advisory county map shows 38 red counties, up from 29 last week. There are now four counties that are yellow. This is the highest number of red counties and the lowest number of yellow counties to date.

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Additionally, Clark, Cuyahoga and Hamilton counties are starred for approaching level four, or the "purple level."

TRAVEL ADVISORY: Indiana and Wisconsin have been removed from the travel advisory list and Alabama, Utah and Nebraska have been added. There are several states whose data is unavailable. The new map has been added below.

Seneca County Commissioners: www.senecacountyohio.gov

The Seneca County Board of Commissioners signed agreements Thursday with several community organizations to help disburse $1 million of CARES Act funding to assist those who have been negatively impacted by COVID-19.

The board signed agreements with Tiffin-Seneca Economic Partnership ($300,000), Fostoria Economic Development Corp. ($200,000) and Great Lakes Community Action Partnership ($250,000) to administer several programs aimed at giving assistance to businesses, non-profit organizations and residents in need in the community. Commissioners' Office staff is also continuing to work on an agreement with Tiffin-Seneca United Way ($250,000) to lead similar programs.

Some examples of how these programs could help the community are as follows:
• The Seneca CARES Small Business Relief Program provides advance grants to eligible businesses with between 2 and 30 employees hurt by the coronavirus for up to $6,000 of eligible expenses.
• A similar program will also be offered to Fostoria-area businesses.
• Great Lakes Community Action Partnership will offer several programs, including rent/mortgage assistance, utility assistance and food assistance.

Commissioner Mike Kerschner said the board made it a priority to help as many people as possible through the CARES Act money, which was provided by the federal government and disbursed to county governments by the state legislature.

"We felt it was necessary to distribute funding to those who are specifically affected right now. We are thinking of the waiters and waitresses, theater employees and people who have lost their jobs as a result of COVID-19," he said. "Instead of giving it to one person, organization or company, we need to make sure we positively affect as many people as possible."

More details on how to participate in these programs will be released on Friday and throughout the coming weeks.

Overall, the county has received about $3.3 million through the CARES Act program. About $1.1 million has been used so far for county projects to help better equip county offices to deal with the ongoing health crisis.

In other business, Seneca County Board of Elections Deputy Director Lori Ritzler submitted a written report updating the commissioners on how the election is going so far.

She states in the report that the office is very busy processing more than 200 voters daily while also training poll workers, packing and preparing for Election Day and keeping up with auditing and other responsibilities.

"We are proud to say that ballots are being mailed out the same day we receive an application, this includes the first round on October 6th," Ritzler said.

The board of elections team has added a full-time and two part-time seasonal employees to help with the increase in responsibilities and duties.

"Our best investment for this election has been the letter opener/date-time stamper. It has by far saved us 3-4 hours a day! It was worth the cost," Ritzler said.

The election office has received more than 10,000 absentee ballots, including 2,476 people who voted early and in-person. Early, in-person voting continues up until Nov. 2, visit https://www.boe.ohio.gov/seneca/ for more details.

During new business, the commissioners approved:
* A $10,000 supplemental appropriation to the Children Services Fund.
* A $1,500 supplemental appropriation to the Delinquent Care and Custody Fund for equipment.
* The 2020 schedule for expenditures of federal awards contract between Julian & Grube, Inc. and Seneca County on behalf of the Seneca County Auditor's Office.
* Setting Dec. 3 at 9:30 a.m. as the date and time for public viewing and public hearing for the potential vacation of two alleys located in Loudon Township. The alley locations are: Alley One – Being part of an alley in Block 2 (Plat Volume 2, Page 10) located in the Southwest Quarter of Section 10, Loudon Township, T-2-N, R-13-E, Seneca County, Ohio
Alley Two – Being part of an alley in Block 3 (Plat Volume 2, Page 10) Located in the Southwest Quarter of Section 10, Loudon Township, T-2-N, R-13-E, Seneca County, Ohio

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 bloodhasn'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.mhrsbssw.org

City of Tiffin: www.tiffinohio.gov

Job and Family Services: https://djfs.co.seneca.oh.us/
UNEMPLOYMENT: The county's UC rate (not seasonally adjusted) dropped from 7.4% in August to 6.5% in September.

Labor Force (those working and looking for work)
     August: 27,700
     September 27,400
     -300

Employed
     August: 25,700
     September: 25,700
     No change

Unemployed
     August 2,100
     September: 1,800
     -300

 The only reason the rate dropped was because 300 Seneca County residents dropped out of the Labor Force

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.

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