



Seneca County EMA Situation Report #98
COVID-19 Response
October 29th, 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: 196,864 (+8,126 in the last 72 hours)
Probable: 12,073
Confirmed Deaths: 4,963
Probable Deaths: 312

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

Metrics (as of 10/29)

Total Cases: 704 (+23)
Active Cases: 155 (+23)
Deaths: 19 (+/-0)
Recovered: 534 (+4)
Hospitalized: 9 (+1)

Resources:

Ohio ODH: coronavirus.ohio.gov

CDC: CDC.gov

Seneca County General Health District: senecahealthdistrict.org

Executive Summary

GOVERNOR: Recording a total of 3,590 new COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours, Ohio blew past its previous record of 2,858 cases on Saturday, Oct. 24.

During his press conference, DeWine called on county commissioners, mayors, hospital leaders, business leaders, religious leaders and health commissioners to create a COVID Defense Team for their county. He said these teams should assess their county's situation, inventory assets, and focus on what steps are needed to reverse the increasing trend.

SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF: With the recent legislative approval of \$420 million in CARES Act spending and Governor DeWine requesting BWC disburse \$5 billion* to business, the Development Services Agency has launched a website to connect Ohio businesses with the resources they need to access this funding.

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VACCINES: Once a vaccine has been authorized, Ohio expects to receive shipments allocated by the federal government with guidance to first vaccinate high-risk populations including healthcare workers and older adults.

In preparation for receiving a vaccine, Ohio has launched an inter-agency working team in collaboration with partners to create and execute a comprehensive vaccination program. A recorded webinar about the Ohio COVID-19 Vaccine Program and how you can participate [can be accessed here](#).

Seneca County Commissioners: www.senecacountyohio.gov

The Seneca County Board of Commissioners approved an agreement for program guidelines with the Tiffin-Seneca United Way, after agreeing to commit \$250,000 to the organization through the CARES Act earlier this month.

Last week, similar programs were agreed upon between the county and Tiffin-Seneca Economic Partnership, Fostoria Economic Development Corp. and Great Lakes Community Action Partnership. In total, \$1 million was committed to assisting residents, small businesses and nonprofit organizations in the community.

The United Way will assist residents negatively impacted by COVID-19 with programs that provide mortgage assistance, homeless prevention and utility assistance (water, sewer, gas, electric and internet).

For more information, contact the United Way (419) 448-0355 or First Call For Help (419) 448-4357.

The board also committed \$250,000 to the Seneca County Department of Job and Family Services for similar programs to assist families struggling with mortgage, rent or utility fees because of the pandemic.

County Administrator Stacy Wilson also announced that four local governmental entities agreed to work with the county to provide financial assistance to small businesses in the county struggling because of the health crisis. Bloom Township (\$18,000), Hopewell Township (\$20,000), Clinton Township (\$80,000) and the village of Bettsville (\$15,000) all agreed to partner with the county and TSEP to distribute money to small businesses in their respective areas.

Wilson said she expects other villages and townships will also participate in the program.

Also related to CARES Act funding, the commissioners agreed to commit \$34,472.22 to various county projects. The funding can be used for previously unbudgeted expenditures brought about by COVID-19. So far, about \$1,145,000 has been spent on such projects. The county now has about \$885,000 left of its allocation through the program, which was roughly \$3.3 million.

In other action, the commissioners approved a resolution that puts into place a three-year agreement with the Barnes-Deinzer Seneca County Museum Foundation to operate the museum. Under the resolution, the foundation would be responsible for basic maintenance and there's an understanding that the group would work with the Seneca County Historical Society.

The board authorized Wilson to work with the prosecutor's office to finalize details of the contract.

In other business, members of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Committee requested that the commissioners allow them to place a statue on the property at the Seneca County Justice Center.

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Rev. Paul Stark, from Heidelberg University, presented a PowerPoint on why the project would be worthwhile for the community.

Stark said the MLK Jr. Day Committee has celebrated the work of King in Seneca County for more than 30 years. He said the committee felt it was time to build off of the annual celebration and other events to inspire Seneca County citizens every day.

The group requested permission from the commissioners to put the monument on the south side of the Justice Center lawn. The project would be of no cost to the county, as money for it would be privately raised over the next two years.

Stark said the statue would fit in well with the statues of Lady Justice and William Harvey Gibson, as Gibson helped to free the nation from slavery and as Lady Justice symbolizes equal justice for all. Several other members from the committee lent support for the idea, including Rev. Marilyn Coney, of Faith United Methodist Church; and Shaun Gunnell, of Heidelberg's Student Affairs Office. The commissioners indicated various levels of support for the project and agreed to seek more public feedback and input on the idea before deciding.

Also during the meeting, Seneca Regional Planning Commission Director Charlene Watkins asked the commissioners to work with her in applying to move some funding between 2019 Community Development Block Grant Program projects. The Bloomville sidewalk improvements under the plan came in about \$13,500 under budget, and Watkins hopes that funding could be transferred to the Melmore Park improvement project. That project would include the addition of two cast-iron grills, accessibility additions and bleacher backrests. The matter is expected to come before the board again next week.

During new business, the commissioners approved all of the resolutions listed in the pre-meeting release.

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.

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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://difs.co.seneca.oh.us/>

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>

Tiffin-Seneca Economic Partnership: <https://senecasuccess.wordpress.com/tag/tsep/>

Seneca County is providing grants to eligible local businesses with between 2 and 30 employees hurt by the coronavirus up to \$10,000 for eligible expenses. Eligible businesses with less than two employees are eligible for up to \$5,000. Read all the eligibility requirements in the Program Guidelines [here](#).

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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