



**Seneca County EMA Situation Report #99**  
**COVID-19 Response**  
**November 5th, 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 (+25,017 in the last 7 days)**  
**Probable: 13,289**  
**Confirmed Deaths: 5,133**  
**Probable Deaths: 328**

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

**Metrics (as of 11/5)**

**Total Cases: 704 (+23)**  
**Active Cases: 244 (+89)**  
**Deaths: 20 (+1)**  
**Recovered: 600 (+66)**  
**Hospitalized: 14 (+5)**

**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**

**GOVERNOR: Gov. Mike DeWine announced Stephanie McCloud as the state's next health department director, as part of the state's efforts to fight the coronavirus pandemic. McCloud was previously appointed as director of the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation by DeWine.**

**The governor also named Dr. Bruce Vanderhoff as Chief Medical Officer of the Ohio Department of Health. Vanderhoff has worked as the senior vice president and chief medical officer of OhioHealth for more than a decade.**

**As part of the transition, DeWine said that Lance Himes, who has been serving as Interim ODH Director will be the ODH Senior Deputy and will focus on work with local health commissioners and efforts to distribute the vaccine once it is approved. Kathleen Madden, current Assistant Director of OBM, will become the ODH Chief of Staff and will focus on programs and operations.**

**John Spahr** Emergency Management Administrator  
126 Hopewell Ave., Tiffin, Ohio 44883  
Office: 419.447.0266 • Fax: 419.448.5064



**PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY SYSTEM:** There are 56 red, or level 3, counties in Ohio, the most the state has ever reported and an increase of 13 counties from last week. Eighty-six percent of the state's population lives in a red county, DeWine said.

**TRAVEL ADVISORY MAP:** Utah, Nevada, Nebraska and Wisconsin were all removed from the travel advisory map this week. Montana was added to the map as its positivity rate is now 19%.

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

During Thursday's session, The Seneca County Board of Commissioners discussed ways to spread the word about several assistance programs that aim to assist people, businesses and non-profit organizations that have been negatively impacted by COVID-19.

The commissioners have made \$1,250,000 of CARES Act funding available through several community partners including Tiffin-Seneca Economic Partnership, Fostoria Economic Development Corporation, Great Lakes Community Action Partnership, Tiffin-Seneca United Way and Seneca County DJFS.

Programs available include financial assistance, food assistance, rent/mortgage assistance, utility assistance and more. To learn more, visit the county's website, <https://senecacountyohio.gov/commissioners-make-1-25-million-available-for-covid-19-assistance/>, or reach out to one of the aforementioned agencies.

The commissioners also approved about \$32,455 in county projects to be funded by CARES Act money. This year, the county has spent about \$1.1 million on county projects that were previously unbudgeted and were brought about by the health crisis. The county received nearly \$3.4 million in CARES money in total. With funding used on assistance programs and other county projects, about \$853,000 remains that must be spent by the end of the year.

In other action, the commissioners received one bid for a small piece of county-owned property in downtown Tiffin. The Old Trinity Episcopal Church bid \$6,600 for a 25-foot-by-55-foot piece of land currently in a county parking lot. The land is necessary for a \$2.4-million community kitchen project that the church is moving forward with. As part of the deal, church officials also plan to make about \$50,000 of parking lot security improvements to the county lot that is part of the piece of land that is being sold. The board will review the bid and make a decision at its next meeting, Nov. 19.

In other business, the commissioners agreed to increase spending by about \$25,000 for Emergency Medical Services personnel through the end of the year. The proposal, pitched by Commissioner Shayne Thomas, would be a way to add staffing to assist the Seneca County EMS volunteers who run the system.

Emergency Services Director Ken Majors said adding paid personnel will increase flexibility and can help supplement and augment the volunteers. The commissioners thanked the EMS volunteers for doing a great job over the past 45 years, and Majors ensured county residents that volunteers will continue to be a vital part of EMS operations in Seneca County for as long as they are willing to do it. Also during the meeting, County Administrator Stacy Wilson reported that expenses through October for the General Fund equaled about \$13.3 million, while revenue was about \$16.3 million. The revenue report is inflated slightly by \$885,000 of one-time Medicaid MCO money that was moved at the

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beginning of the pandemic, and by a grant-funded project at the Seneca County Airport which amounts to about \$900,000 on the revenue and expenses side of the equation.

Wilson also reported that the Bureau of Workers Compensation is to provide a rebate check to the county of about \$726,000, with about half of that going to the General Fund.

During public comments, former Seneca County Museum Director Tonia Hoffert informed the commissioners that she would not accept the county's offer to return under a new role.

"After long discussions with my family ... I've decided to go in a different direction. So, I will not be going back to the museum," Hoffert said.

Commissioner Tony Paradiso had previously outlined a plan that would bring Hoffert back in a new role, while the Barnes-Deinzer Foundation would be responsible for choosing a director.

The commissioners thanked Hoffert for her time spent working at the museum and wished her well for the future.

In new business, the board approved all resolutions from the meeting's agenda.

**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**

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)

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

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

**UNEMPLOYMENT:** Ohioans filed 21,263 initial claims for unemployment compensation last week, according to the Department of Job and Family Services. The total represented an increase of 3,732, or about 21%, from the previous week.

ODJFS reported residents filed 265,613 continued jobless claims last week, down from 266,208 the previous week. The agency said it has sent more than \$7.1 billion in unemployment compensation payments to more than 833,000 workers over the last 33 weeks.

The U.S. Department of Labor reported 751,000 new jobless claims were filed nationwide last week, down 7,000 from the previous week's revised level.

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