



**Seneca County EMA Situation Report #101**  
**COVID-19 Response**  
**November 12th, 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 (+62,653 in the last 72 hours)**  
**Probable: 14,958**  
**Confirmed Deaths: 5,316**  
**Probable Deaths: 342**

**Seneca County: LEVEL 3 (High Incidence) PUBLIC EMERGENCY [Ohio's Public Health Advisory System](#)**

**Metrics (as of 11/12)**

**Total Cases: 1,095 (+116)**  
**Active Cases: 254 (+89)**  
**Deaths: 21 (+/-0)**  
**Recovered: 699 (+10)**  
**Hospitalized: 21 (+4)**

**Resources:**

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

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

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

**Executive Summary**

**GOVERNOR:** Today's daily COVID-19 numbers continue our growing trend topping 7,000 cases reported since yesterday, which is another one-day record. We also have our second highest day of hospital admissions with 268 people getting admitted to the hospital.

Governor DeWine announced two new dashboards that have been released, a Zip Code Dashboard and a Flu Dashboard. With the Zip Code Dashboard, users can view data from their local communities on a map and filter by probable or confirmed case status, county, a specific zip code, or a time period. Case counts will be available on a downloadable filterable chart sorted from the highest cases to the least. To protect confidentiality, case counts for zip codes with fewer than 5 cases or less than 100 total residents won't have case counts shown. The dashboard can be found at [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov).

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



The Flu Dashboard expands statewide seasonal flu activity that the Ohio Department of Health shares each year. It shows flu trends over time with charts that indicate whether flu hospitalizations or cases of flu-like illnesses are on the rise or decline. Hospitalization data is broken down by region, county, date, sex, age, race, and ethnicity. The data shows only positive flu PCR tests reported by public health laboratories and selected clinical laboratories that participate in the national flu monitoring system. The dashboard can be found at [flu.ohio.gov](http://flu.ohio.gov).

Governor DeWine also announced that \$30 million dollars has been set aside to assist the state's 113 local health departments. Each department will receive \$200,000 and they will have the flexibility to determine how to best use the funds as they see fit to fight COVID-19. The remaining money will be used to hire contact tracers to support local health departments. Those tracers would be able to deploy wherever they are needed across the state to assist identifying individuals who may have been exposed to COVID-19 and prevent further spread.

**PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY SYSTEM:** 68 Ohio counties are now red, and Franklin and Tuscarawas counties are on the watch list. Today's new red counties are: Brown, Delaware, Erie, Hancock, Jackson, Knox, Miami, Paulding, Seneca, Shelby, Williams, and Wood. 8 of these counties are red for the first time.

**TRAVEL ADVISORY:** An updated travel advisory map has been added below. Ohioans are encouraged to avoid South Dakota, North Dakota, Iowa, Wyoming, Idaho, Kansas, Alabama, Montana, Utah, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Mississippi. Missouri and Oklahoma are shaded gray on the travel advisory map because an accurate positivity rate cannot be calculated.

Below is a recap of last night's address from Governor DeWine.

#### **WHERE WE ARE NOW**

Ohio is experiencing a more intense surge in COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, ICU admissions across the entire state.

In September, Ohio averaged under 1,000 cases a day. Today, Ohio reported our second highest number of cases at nearly 5,900. Some believe that the only reason we are seeing more cases is because more testing is being done. We do have more testing available throughout the state, but while testing has not yet doubled, cases have almost quadrupled.

Last week, Ohio had just under 2,000 COVID patients in hospitals throughout the state. But today, one week later, Ohio is approaching 3,000 patients. A month ago, 240 patients with COVID were in the ICU receiving critical care. As of today, more than 700 Ohioans are in the ICU.

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



We know how to beat this virus. We need to stick to the basics: wash your hands; wear your mask even when you're with friends and family; stay socially distanced; work from home when you can; and stay at home when you are sick.

We cannot pick and choose when we follow this guidance. We have to follow it every single day if we want to beat this virus.

## **WHAT WE ARE DOING**

### **New Mask Order**

Most businesses are doing a good job ensuring that COVID-19 safety guidelines are being followed. However, it is clear that there are some businesses where mask-wearing is lacking.

We have a responsibility to employees and customers to ensure that Ohio's businesses are as safe as possible.

Governor DeWine will ask the Department of Health to reissue the mask order that's been in place since July 23rd to include the following new provisions:

Each business will be required to post a Face Covering Requirement sign at each public entrance.

Attached is a printable sign that businesses can use.

Each business will be responsible for ensuring that customers and employees are wearing masks.

A new Retail Compliance Unit, led by the Bureau of Workers Compensation, will be inspecting to ensure retail compliance. A first violation of this order will bring about a written warning and a second violation will bring about closure of the store for up to 24 hours.

### **New Social Gathering Order**

There has been an order in place since April to limit gatherings to no more than 10 people.

Despite the order, there is rampant spread of the virus from banquets, wedding receptions, and social gatherings following funerals. It's not the ceremonies, it is at the parties afterwards.

A new order will place significant new restrictions on these social activities. Open congregate areas can no longer be open. The new order requires everyone to be seated and masked unless they are actively consuming food or drinks and prohibits things such as dancing and games. I will send a copy of the order as soon as it's available.

### **Restaurants/Bars/Gyms**

If the trend continues and cases keep increasing, we will be forced to close restaurants, bars, and gyms one week from tomorrow (11/19).

These are locations where it is difficult or impossible to maintain mask-wearing. Mask wearing is our chief way of slowing down the spread of the virus.

### **Schools**

The vast majority of our K-12 schools are doing a fantastic job. However, a surge in communities threatens a districts' ability to keep teachers in the classroom.

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



Our colleges and universities have taken strong action to keep their cases low and their campuses safe. Many have agreed to not return to in-person learning after Thanksgiving for the remainder of the semester. Unless we dramatically slow the community spread of this virus, higher education institutions may have to remain virtual when classes begin in January.

**STATE OF OHIO FINANCIAL REPORT:** The state's Office of Budget Management released October's financial report showing sales and use tax revenues were above estimates, continued increased in employment numbers nationwide, and continued economic growth in the fourth quarter of 2020. You can view the report [here](#).

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

**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 Public Health Advisory System shows that Seneca County has met 5 of the 7 indicators needed to change the level. Wearing a mask, washing your hands and/or using hand sanitizer and not congregating with friends or family not living in your household is the best way to stem the tide of this virus. This is inconvenient and difficult, but necessary.

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.

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



**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)

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

**UNEMPLOYMENT:** Please see the updated unemployment information attached to the email.

**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.**

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