



Seneca County EMA Situation Report #111
COVID-19 Response
December 17th, 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: 542,686 (+20,219 in the last 96 hours)
Probable: 53,492
Confirmed Deaths: 7,241
Probable Deaths: 653

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

Metrics (as of 12/16)

Total Cases: 2,914 (+144)
Active Cases: 779 (+17)
Deaths: 57 (+7)
Recovered: 1823 (+119)
Hospitalized: 55 (+6)

Resources:

Ohio ODH: coronavirus.ohio.gov

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

Seneca County General Health District: senecahealthdistrict.org

Executive Summary

GOVERNOR: DeWine focused today's press conference on the COVID-19 vaccine and its distribution throughout the state. Working with CVS and Walgreens, many of Ohio's nursing homes will be receiving the vaccine starting tomorrow.

COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH MAP: The updated map this week only shows Richland County at the purple level. The remaining counties, with the exception of four, are red. DeWine acknowledged that the map is not as effective as it once was as showing where the spread is throughout the state.

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TRAVEL ADVISORY: The COVID-19 travel advisory map remains much the same this week, however Montana has been removed from the quarantine advisory.

VACCINE PROVIDERS: Prospective COVID-19 vaccine providers are encouraged to review the [enrollment checklist](#), [FAQ's Document](#), and [view the webinar](#) that details how to enroll. To enroll in the COVID-19 Vaccination Program:

Visit OHID webpage: <https://ohid.ohio.gov>

Log-in using your OHID or create a new account

[Request access to the Vaccination Program \(COVID-19\) application](#)

Complete, sign, and submit all required forms electronically through the application

Other resources:

[ODH Provider Enrollment Information](#)

[ODH Provider Training](#)

[Interim DRAFT Vaccination Plan](#)

PHASED APPROACH TO VACCINE ADMINISTRATION

Governor DeWine announced that Phase 1A of the vaccine will be available around December 15, 2020. Phase 1A of distribution priorities - in no particular order include:

- Health care providers and personnel routinely involved with the care of COVID-19 patients
- Residents and staff at nursing facilities
- Residents and staff at assisted living facilities
- Residents and staff of Ohio's veterans' homes
- Patients and staff at psychiatric hospitals
- People with intellectual disabilities and those who live with mental illness who live in group homes and their staff
- EMS responders

The federal government has made it clear that we will not know for sure how many vaccines are coming until closer to the time the shipments are finalized.

On December 22, we anticipate a shipment of 201,000 vaccines from Moderna. These will go to 98 hospitals and 108 health departments. Hospitals will vaccinate those dealing with COVID-19 patients. Health departments will vaccinate people like EMS, home health care works, and others.

TESTING LOCATIONS: Seneca County is currently in the process of scheduling pop up testing. Date is tentatively scheduled with the National Guard in January.

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DeWine has started a walk-up/drive-up testing initiative with the Ohio Association of Community Health Centers and their affiliate members and the Ohio National Guard. These sites will also include other local community-based organizations i.e., faith-based organizations, community centers, food pantries, etc.

Testing for this initiative will be available for individuals with or without symptoms. The test has no out-of-pocket cost to the patient and individuals of any age are able to access the test. Minors will need signed consent of a parent/guardian.

For an exhaustive list of all the locations in the state that are offering testing, [click here](#).

Seneca County Commissioners: www.senecacountyohio.gov

The Seneca County Board of Commissioners applauded State Rep. Bill Reineke and other state legislators for their support of the Opportunity Park improvement project Thursday morning. The project, which was prioritized by the commissioners as a project to seek state capital funding for, could receive \$200,000 through Senate Bill 310, which is being considered by the state legislature. The commissioners were joined by city of Tiffin, Eden Township, Seneca County Opportunity Center and Seneca County General Health District officials in penning letters of support for the project. The park, which is located near the Opportunity Center school, is an inclusive area that will become home to recreational opportunities for county citizens.

On Jan. 8, the commissioners sent a letter to Reineke and State Senator Dave Burke asking for their support in seeking state funding for Opportunity Park.

The letter states, "Currently, Opportunity Park is the only park solely dedicated to those with special needs. By moving forward, we would improve this offering and raise the quality of life of many.

"Another benefit of the project is that it would satisfy an important portion of our active transportation plan. The plan was a multi-jurisdictional effort and was endorsed and adopted by the city of Tiffin. The park would help provide a safe pathway to cross US 224, a major highway that runs through our county. One of our priorities as a board has been to offer more recreational opportunities for our residents and this project would help to accomplish that."

Commissioner Shayne Thomas, who championed the project, was elated by the potential for state funding.

"Opportunity Park will be another prime example of stakeholders working together on a shared vision. Building an inclusive park for the community to enjoy will be celebrated for generations. Hats off to Representative Reineke for securing the lynchpin funding needed to make this plan a reality," he said.

In other business, the board tentatively approved a \$17.9 million General Fund budget, while also adopting the non-General Fund budget, including the capital projects line.

County Administrator Stacy Wilson said departments initially requested a General Fund budget of about \$18.4 million. Since the county's budget commission certified revenue for 2021 at \$17.5 million, the commissioners wanted to reduce the projected expense figure to approve a balanced budget.

Proposed cuts included removing travel and equipment expenditures from the General Fund, bringing Thursday's proposal in at about \$17.9 million. This figure includes an additional \$300,000 commitment to Seneca County EMS.

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The board unanimously agreed to approve the General Fund budget at this figure, as long as the Seneca County Budget Commission makes amendments to its revenue estimate for 2021.

Thomas said he believes the commission, which meets on Dec. 22, may increase revenue estimates because of some new data points. These points include unexpected revenues such as the higher sales tax collection figure a larger than expected rebate of Bureau of Workers Compensation.

Board President Mike Kerschner said the commissioners plan to revisit the General Fund budget if the budget commission does not make any amendments, to ensure the passage of a balanced budget.

Also, the commissioners prioritized about \$1.4 million in capital projects for 2021. Wilson said about \$350,000 has already been set aside for capital projects, and the commissioners plan to move funding to the capital line (in the non-General Fund) as needed next year. Wilson, in conjunction with Building & Grounds Maintenance Supervisor John Logsdon, presented more than \$2.5 million of capital projects that have been deferred in previous budgets.

Commissioner Anthony Paradiso said it was important to invest in long-term capital improvements and to focus on the many deferred maintenance projects that are necessary across the county. Prioritized projects include replacing the County Services Building wall and making the entrance Americans with Disabilities Act accessible and upgrading the roof on the Department of Job and Family Services building. During new business, the board approved all resolutions from the pre-meeting release and also approved:

* A \$1,326,544.08 supplemental appropriation to the County Sales Tax Revenues Fund in the transfers out line, to be used in the General Fund.

* A \$900.77 supplemental appropriation to the General Fund for the Ohio Public Defender.

* A \$10,000 supplemental appropriation for contract services on behalf of the County Recorder.

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

What do you do if you have symptoms of COVID? Contact your doctor. If you don't have a doctor, but have insurance, check to see if your insurance has tele-health and see a doctor. If your doctor does not recommend a COVID test but you need one, call the Tiffin Community Health Center, 419.455.8140 and make an appointment.

PCR swab tests may take 4-6 days to return results as they must be sent to a lab and be cultured to test for the virus. Rapid tests have a much shorter return time, but are in short supply. No test is 100% accurate. The test relies on, among other things, the amount of virus in your system at the time of the test. Tests are available at the following locations:

PCR (4-6 day return):

Mercy Health-Tiffin Hospital (with Drs. order)

ProMedica Hospital (with Drs. order)

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Tiffin Community Health Center (Tele-health or Dr. on site)

Rapid Test (6-8 hour return):

Urgent Care (Tele-health or Dr. onsite)

CVS

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.

Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio: hcno.org

Please see the attached COVID-19 Data Report for [12/14/20](#). Throughout the COVID-19 response, HCNO will release updated reports regularly using this format

Key points:

- Regionally, there are 697 COVID-19 patients with 391 (56%) in Lucas County hospitals, 97 (14%) in Allen County hospitals, and the remaining 209 (30%) from other NW Ohio counties
- Regionally, there are 186 COVID-19 Critical Care patients with 123 (67%) in Lucas County hospitals, 25 (13%) in Allen County hospitals, and the remaining 38 (20%) from other NW Ohio counties
- Out of 38 regional hospitals reporting, 22 hospitals reported strained or critical nursing shortages (58%)
- The number of COVID-19 hospitalized patients in Region 1 and Regions 1, 2 and 5 combined continues to increase
- The number of COVID-19 hospitalized patients in Region 1 and Regions 1, 2 and 5 (Zone 1) combined continues to increase o Region 1 COVID-19 hospitalized patients are higher than our previous peak in the 200-330 range in mid-April o Zone 1's COVID-19 hospitalized patients are higher than our previous peak in the 690-700 range in mid-April
- Cases reported through the Ohio Department of Health continue to increase substantially each day
- The statewide median age for COVID-19 is 43 years old • The statewide 7-day average positivity rate for testing is 14.5%

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

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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: Ohioans filed 38,327 initial jobless claims last week, the state reported, continuing the recent trend upward that is mirrored nationally,
Last week, 36,327 Ohioans sought unemployment benefits for the first time, up from 27,750 the week before.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Department of Labor reported 885,000 jobless claims for the week ending Dec. 12, which reflected an increase of 23,000 from the previous week's revised level.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services said Ohio's weekly report found first claims for unemployment last week were 235,888 fewer than, or 14% of, the peak earlier this year. The total number of initial jobless claims filed in Ohio over the last 39 weeks, at 2,008,221, was more than the combined total of those filed during the last four years, the agency said.

ODJFS said another 274,658 citizens requested continuing benefits last week, and 262,514 self-employed Ohioans received Pandemic Unemployment Assistance during the period.

Over the last 39 weeks, the state has distributed more than \$7.5 billion in unemployment compensation payments to more than 868,000 Ohioans, and ODJFS said more than \$7.4 billion in PUA payments have been issued to more than 756,000 Ohioans.

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

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

Economic Recovery (Seneca County): <https://www.tiffinchamber.com/coronavirus-resources>

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

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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