



Seneca County EMA Situation Report #60
COVID-19 Response
June 18, 2020 (published on June 19th)
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: 39,973 (+1,437 in last 72 hours)
Probable: 3,149
Confirmed Deaths: 2,401
Probable Deaths: 232

Seneca County

Total Cases: 30
Deaths: 2
Recovered: 26
Hospitalized: 0

Resources:

Ohio ODH: coronavirus.ohio.gov

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

Seneca County General Health District: senecahealthdistrict.org

Executive Summary

GOVERNOR: During today's press conference, DeWine said that overall Ohio is seeing a downward trend of COVID-19 cases, however today's spike can largely be attributed to hotspots in southwest Ohio including large increases in Montgomery, Hamilton, Greene, Clark and Warren counties.

According to DeWine, the state will be utilizing two tools to lower this trend in southwest Ohio which includes greater education efforts for citizens as well as increasing access to tests. He said that the third tool would be to issue new orders to close again, but said "that is a last resort."

DeWine also said that there is now a Hospital Readiness PPE stockpile. Hospitals will store the PPE and can distribute it to long-term care facilities that see a spike of COVID-19.

Dr. Amy Edwards from University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital joined the Governor for today's presser, saying that Ohio is seeing an uptick in hospitalizations for children with COVID-19 and are also seeing more cases of Multisystem-Inflammatory Syndrome (MIS-C) in children.

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Governor DeWine reports that there is now an email set up to coordinate donations and offers to help. This address is together@governor.ohio.gov.

Dr. Acton reports there is a new coronavirus interactive dashboard at <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/home/dashboard>.

Ohio State Fair:

The Expo Commission has cancelled the 2020 Ohio State Fair due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Ohio State Fair's management team along with the Ohio Expo Commission evaluated information from state and local health officials, along with the financial feasibility of a reduced attendance over the past several weeks.

Seneca County Commissioners: www.senecacountyohio.gov

The Seneca County Board of Commissioners heard about an opportunity to save money on energy costs from a Palmer Energy representative Thursday.

Palmer Energy partners with the County Commissioners Association of Ohio to help manage a natural gas and electric program for member counties. Seneca County has opted into this program, which is designed to help save money on natural gas and electric bills by using the strength of group buying.

Hoffman said the company is working with CCAO to install a solar array in the state to offer a hedge for counties and cities using Palmer for energy aggregation.

Under the program, about 20-25 percent of energy would be provided through a solar power purchasing agreement by governmental entities. Palmer representatives believe the arrangement could save money over time and could also offer a degree of diversification to the energy portfolio of those involved.

The more counties and cities that use the program, the more beneficial it would become to those entities. The company has about 10 counties committed, and officials expect 25-30 more to enter the program. Several cities also are expected to join the agreement.

The array is expected to be a 200-300-megawatt facility.

Palmer officials believe a carbon tax could be implemented on other energy sources, and so they believe a hedge on solar could be financially beneficial moving forward. They also cited the low price of solar energy as a good reason to diversify energy generation sources.

The commissioners agreed to continue researching the program and to put it on the agenda within the next month to decide if they should opt-in to the solar power hedge.

In other business, Commissioner Mike Kerschner told the board that he visited the Tiffin City Council meeting this week to offer the board's support for the Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area in downtown Tiffin. In May, the board unanimously agreed to offer support for the program.

He said he was encouraged by the "spirit of cooperation and collaboration" between the city and county. Officials hope the DORA helps businesses as they deal with the negative effects of the global pandemic.

In other action, Kerschner, who is a member of the Seneca County Fair Board, thanked the volunteers on the board for finding a way to plan for a fair this year.

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“The fabric of our community is based on volunteers like them,” he said. “I’ve been very impressed with that group.”

Also during the meeting, Mike Dittoe, of High Bridge Consulting, updated the board on federal CARES Act money that should be made available to the county soon.

The board approved a resolution last week to enable the county to receive that money to be used to reimburse the county for previously unbudgeted expenses that were caused by the health crisis. Roughly \$2 million is expected to be available locally to be split among the county, the cities, the villages and townships.

During County Administrator Stacy Wilson’s report, she said the state office of Budget and Management gave preliminary estimates for 2021 revenues. She said the sales tax, which represents nearly half of the county’s revenue each year, is expected to be down about 13 percent compared to initial estimates.

She also said the county’s sales tax report in June was down by 16 percent compared to 2019. The sales tax has a roughly two-month lag.

In new business, the board approved:

- * Setting July 2 at 10:15 a.m. to receive bids for the 2020 CR 592 pavement widening and resurfacing project.
- * Accepting the 2020-2021 wage scale for the Seneca County Department of Job and Family Services non-bargaining unit for employees.
- * Establishing the Local Coronavirus Relief Fund.
- * Establishing the County Coronavirus Relief Distribution Fund.
- * The disposal of unneeded, unfit or obsolete property – a 2006 Dodge Charger, on behalf of the Seneca County Department of Job and Family Services. The vehicle was sold for \$1,000 of trade-in value.
- * Amendment #3 for the engineering services agreement with Stantec for the acquisition of the Newman Property near the Seneca County Airport.
- * Accepting the request for proposal and entering into a contract with Henschen and Associates, Inc. for the Seneca County Common Pleas Court Case Management System on behalf of the Seneca County Clerk of Courts.

Seneca County General Health District: www.senecahealthdept.org

The Health Department reports 30 total confirmed cases of the COVID-19 virus including 26 people who have recovered from the illness and two who have died due to complications of COVID19.

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

Scammers are contacting people claiming to be tracing COVID-19 contacts. While legitimate health agencies, including the Seneca County General Health District are calling people to complete

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contact tracing, they will never ask for your Social Security or Bank Account information. Do not click on links or respond to texts saying you have been exposed to COVID-19.

The EMA will continue to update our partners on the numbers on a daily basis Monday through Friday with weekend reports only being published if there is breaking news. Please continue to send your information to be shared with our partners to jspahr@senecacountyohio.gov.

Seneca County Fair: senecacountyfair.org

The 2020 Seneca County Fair is happening. Some of the grandstands events have been cancelled due to the current restrictions of 50% grandstands capacity. More details to follow.

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 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.mhrbsbssw.org

City of Tiffin: www.tiffinohio.gov

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

Another 32,788 Ohioans filed initial claims for unemployment compensation last week, according to the Department of Job and Family Services.

The total was down from more than 35,000 the previous week, ODJFS reported.

Continued weekly claims declined for the seventh straight week, down 287,499 from the state's peak in April.

About 1.36 million Ohioans have filed new jobless claims over the past 13 weeks. ODJFS reported it has distributed more than \$4.1 billion in unemployment compensation payments to more than 700,000 workers.

The U.S. Department of Labor reported just over 1.5 million initial unemployment claims nationwide last week, down about 58,000 from the previous week.

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

OSS Solid Waste District: <https://recycleoss.org/>

The Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca Solid Waste Management District is announcing our New Summer Recycling Events Schedule for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) and Television (TV)-Electronics Collections. Click the link above for dates times and registration information.

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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