



## Seneca County EMA Situation Report #10

COVID-19 Response

March 27, 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, LEPC/HS and Mental Health Recovery Services

### Ohio

**Confirmed Cases:** 1137 (+270 in last 24 hours)  
**Deaths:** 19

### Seneca County

**Confirmed Cases:** 2  
**Deaths:** 0

### Executive Summary

Governor DeWine signed legislation that has some temporary measures to help relieve the effects of the pandemic in Ohio including, but not limited to, extending the professional licensing of health care workers, etc., through the pandemic.

Senator Portman reported that the US House of Representatives unanimously passed a 2 Trillion dollar stimulus bill designed to help people keep their jobs and to help those that have lost their jobs due to the pandemic. 150 billion dollars for health care is included in the bill including funding for the CDC and Local Health Department totaling 4.3 billion dollars with 1.5 billion going to the states for local health departments.

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](mailto:together@governor.ohio.gov). Weddings/Funerals: These are not prohibited, but we ask that we don't have large gatherings. Postpone the big ceremony -- get married, but the big party should be after this is over. It's something to look forward to. Evictions: We want everyone to stay home, and we want everyone to have a home to stay in. The bill passed by the legislature relieves the courts' requirement to hear criminal, civil, and administrative cases in a certain period of time. He stated that he is unsure at this point about the schools opening up or not this year.

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

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Lt. Governor Husted reinforced that health departments should not be called for interpretations of the rules only for enforcement. He suggested that people visit the unemployment website at varying times of the day because it is open 24/7.

#### **Seneca County General Health District:**

2 Positive Cases of COVID-19

Currently have 16 tests waiting for results

Monday, Wednesday, Friday Facebook Live Podcasts with Health Commissioner (see below)

Health Commissioner on WBVI radio daily

Pushing publicity in the newspaper, on radio, and on the podcast on employers' responsibility to employees, providing printed materials on social distancing, hand sanitizer, disinfection of surfaces.

Fielding numerous complaints about non-essential businesses remaining open

Worked with the EMA director to distribute SNS.

Agreement with local law enforcement who will investigate complaints of non-compliance.

Conference Call with Elected Officials

Conference Call with Emergency Partners

Seneca County Health Commissioner will produce Facebook Live videos starting next Monday at 10:30 with updates from the Health District. These will occur at 10:30 Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Videos will be archived on Facebook and can be viewed live on the Health Department's and Commissioner's FB pages.

#### **Emergency Management Agency**

**Seneca County is under a FLASH FLOOD WATCH from midnight Friday night to Noon on Saturday due to a line of storms that will dump a large amount of rain on the US 30 corridor. Do not drive through standing or running water.**

EMA is continuing to accept and process Personal Protective Equipment from non-emergency sources to help support the supply for the Health Department. Contact the EMA at 419.934.1967 to arrange a drop-off. The Donation Center at the Public Safety building will be accepting donations from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. M-F. These resources will be prioritized and dispensed on the directive of the Seneca County General Health District.

#### **Blood Collection**

The American Red Cross now faces a severe blood shortage due to an unprecedented number of blood drive cancellations in response to the coronavirus outbreak. Across the country, more than 9,000 blood drives have been canceled, resulting in more than 250,000 uncollected blood donations. **Blood donation is considered an essential service** to ensure the health of the community and is listed as an exception in the state order. While everyone is being asked to avoid mass gatherings, it's very important to note that blood drives are **not** considered "mass gatherings." Blood drives are controlled events with trained staff and appropriate safety measures to protect donors and our staff. The Red Cross remains open to take blood donations and people are encouraged to continue to donate blood so hospital patient care can continue.

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The Red Cross has implemented new measures to ensure blood drives and donation centers are even safer for our donors and staff, including:

- Checking the temperature of staff and donors *before* entering a drive to make sure they are healthy
- Providing hand sanitizer for use before the drive, as well as throughout the donation process
- Spacing beds to follow social distancing practices between blood donors
- Increasing enhanced disinfecting of surfaces and equipment.

Together, we must ensure a readily available blood supply for patients who are counting on us. Individuals can schedule an appointment to give blood with the American Red Cross by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org), using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, calling 1-800-RED-CROSS or activating the Blood Scheduling Skill for Amazon Alexa.

#### **Mental Health and Recovery Board of Seneca, Sandusky and Wyandot Counties**

During these uncertain times, our office may be closed to the public, however, we are still hard at work to ensure that community member's needs are met. Our board staff is ready to help you navigate the resources. Call our office at 419.448.0640 for any questions regarding behavioral health.

#### **County Commissioners**

The Seneca County Board of Commissioners approved a state of emergency declaration Thursday morning in response to the COVID-19 pandemic that is affecting communities across the world. The proclamation, which can be viewed in its entirety at [senecacountyohio.gov](http://senecacountyohio.gov), gives limited emergency powers to County Administrator Stacy Wilson, could set the county up to receive state or federal emergency funds and allows the commissioners to hold digital meetings.

The declaration also allows the commissioners to exempt the competitive bidding process on projects related to the emergency with any cost less than \$100,000. Typically, the bidding process could be exempted for any project with a cost below \$50,000.

The commissioners sent a message to department leaders and elected officials to attempt to reduce budgets by 30 percent. The county's General Fund budget featured projected expenditures of about \$17.5 million for this year. A 30-percent reduction of this would mean cutting about \$5.25 million from the budget. The entire post-meeting release can be found at [senecacountyohio.gov](http://senecacountyohio.gov).

#### **City of Tiffin**

Mayor's Messages: Due to the current COVID-19 health crisis, I have determined it necessary to waive late fees for sewer bills for all residences and businesses for March, April, May and June in 2020. This authority is granted to me under the emergency powers of the Mayor in Chapter 131 of the Tiffin City Charter.

All City of Tiffin Municipal buildings shall remain closed to the public, except for employees of the city, through April 6, 2020. This closure includes family members of city employees, friends of city employees, members of the general public, and employees currently on any sort of leave.

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Due to the COVID-19 outbreak in the State of Ohio and Nationally as of March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the City of Tiffin brush and leaf composting facility is closed until the Governor ends the “Stay at Home” order.

### **Courts**

The Common Pleas Courts have postponed all jury trials for the time being, and are asking those with trial and hearing dates to call ahead of time to confirm that they need to appear in person. When appearing, only bring those persons that are necessary to the case. Family members and others will not be admitted to the courthouse.

### **Clerk of Courts**

The Title office is temporarily closed to the public until further notice.

### **Seneca County Veterans Services**

The Veterans Services department has stopped all in-person meetings with clients. Services will continue using phone and email. Contact the Seneca County Veterans' Services Office for more information.

### **Job and Family Services**

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services urges individuals to file their claims online, if possible, at [unemployment.ohio.gov](http://unemployment.ohio.gov).

Employers with a critical need for employees are looking for workers. Go to [OhioMeansJobs.gov](http://OhioMeansJobs.gov) to search and apply.

### **Healthcare**

Nursing homes have ended visitation at this time to limit the exposure of the residents.

Testing for the coronavirus is not necessary for everyone who may have the symptoms. Testing is not necessary for asymptomatic individuals. Testing will be reserved for Health Care workers and vulnerable populations only. Please call your doctor or health care provider if you think you have symptoms or call ahead to the hospital before you travel to the ER. If you are in distress, call 911 and tell the dispatcher your symptoms.

### **EMS**

Dispatchers in Seneca County have been doing a great job at screening calls for symptoms of the COVID19 and passing that information on to first responders to protect our front line emergency medical workers.

EMS services in the county continue as usual, however, it is requested that you call your health care provider before calling 911 regarding symptoms of COVID-19. If you are in respiratory distress, call 911.

### **Law Enforcement**

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The Seneca County Sheriff has ended prisoner visitation for the foreseeable future to limit exposure to the inmates and staff of the jail and Sheriff's department personnel.

Tiffin City Police officers are taking reports by phone as much as is prudent, but still responding to emergency calls. Officers will remain on patrol throughout the city.

Fostoria Police Officers are also taking reports and patrolling; responding to emergencies as needed.

Tiffin PD and Fostoria PD have met and agreed to share resources (officers and dispatchers) if the need arises to continue to provide a safe level of service.

### **Business**

Lt. Gov. Husted advised that seasonal workers are needed by companies such as Kroger, Wal-Mart, Amazon, and others during this incident. You can get more information at [Ohiomeansjobs.com](http://Ohiomeansjobs.com). Other information for businesses can be found at [coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://coronavirus.ohio.gov).

Lt. Gov. Husted said that businesses can defer BWC payments for March, April and May. BWC and the state government will revisit that timeline in May. This decision will leave \$200 million in the local economies. Department of Transportation will issue waivers for weight and size restrictions on critical supply shipments and will waive the fee for oversized loads of critical supplies. SBA loans are available for impacted businesses at [disasterloan.sba.gov](http://disasterloan.sba.gov). Health Insurance payments from businesses can be waived for 60 calendar days as well.

TSEP and the City of Tiffin have put together webpages to direct the public to restaurants with carryout and delivery options.

### **Higher Education**

Tiffin University has suspended classroom learning and moved to an online environment.

Heidelberg University campus will close at 5:00 p.m. Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Classes will resume Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> remotely through the end of the spring semester. Heidelberg will lock all exterior doors of buildings Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> with staff reporting to campus for work. No in-person business will be conducted. Some employees will be approved to work remotely.

### **Public/Private Schools**

Seneca County Opportunity Center: We are currently closed to the general public but are available by phone (419) 447-7521. We currently are video teaching and providing educational services via technology as well as determining eligibility for EI and our adult services. We have been contacting all those who receive services for wellness checks. This includes monitoring over 550 individuals and families to ensure that they have food, Medical Supplies and staffing needed to ensure health and safety as well as monitoring for symptoms of the COVID-19. We have been receiving calls and reassigning staff to support residential providers as we work through this situation. We need Masks, Hand Sanitizer, and other PPE as we assign staff to go out to individuals' homes who are showing the symptoms and are unable to care for themselves. We have distributed the resources that we have maintained and looking for ways to support other agencies who support individuals with Developmental Disabilities.

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As per the Governor's order, schools are closed through April 3rd for the time being. Some schools are providing breakfast and lunch, delivered to sectors around the area for students and teachers are reaching out to students to assist them in learning while at home.

#### **Administration**

FEMA is working with the states to get their agreements in place for an Emergency Declaration. This is very different than a Disaster Declaration. The Department of Health and Human Services will be the lead on this Emergency Declaration, and this is unprecedented. It is vital that agencies that are experiencing extra costs in overtime, supplies, etc. keep a detailed record of expenses and time worked. There is no guarantee right now that these expenses will be reimbursed through FEMA, however, if there is a match required for grants or relief, overtime, volunteer time and time worked outside of regular hours, if documented, could be used to offset match requirements. Requests for Public Assistance applications will be distributed to government entities, hospitals and other health-related organizations and schools and universities.

**This daily situational report will be sent around 4 p.m. each day M-F and as needed over the weekend. If you wish to update or add information to this report, please get it to the EMA at [jspahr@senecacountyohio.gov](mailto:jspahr@senecacountyohio.gov) by 2:30 p.m. each day.**

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