



Seneca County EMA Situation Report #3
COVID-19 Response
March 20, 2020
County EOC Status: Monitoring
State EOC: Partially 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: 169 (+50 in last 24 hours)
Deaths: 1 (Lucas Co.)

Number of counties with cases: Ashland (1), Ashtabula (1), Belmont (2), Butler (12), Clark (1), Coshocton (2), Cuyahoga (69), Darke (1), Delaware (2), Franklin (14), Geauga (1), Hamilton (7), Huron (1), Lake (3), Lorain (10), Lucas (2), Mahoning (7), Marion (1), Medina (6), Miami (1), Montgomery (1), Richland (1), Stark (6), Summit (10), Trumbull (3), Tuscarawas (1), Union (1), Warren (2)

Seneca County

Confirmed Cases: 0
Deaths: 0

Executive Summary

The Governor and Dr. Amy Acton both stress the importance of social distancing and are stressing that not everyone presenting symptoms will need a test for COVID-19. There is a shortage of tests and those need to be used for extreme cases and for testing healthcare workers to keep the workforce safe. Testing for the virus will not change how you will recover. Calling your healthcare provider will help you figure out if you need to go to the hospital. Most people with symptoms will merely be given instructions on what to look for and how to treat at home until the virus runs its course. If you feel you have symptoms, stay home and isolate. If the symptoms get worse, call your health care provider and follow instructions.

The Governor confirmed one death in Lucas County, a 76-year-old man. The Governor said all senior centers in the state are ordered to close by end of business Monday, March 23rd. He also said to businesses in the strongest possible language to be responsible with workers' health and to do what needs to be done to keep people safe.

Seneca County General Health District:

As per the Governor and the Ohio Department of Health, employees' temperatures should be taken before they come to work. Employees can take their temperatures and report to work if below

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100.4 F. Health Commissioner's advice on using eyeglass cleaner or cleaning wipes made of alcohol is not recommended due to the alcohol drying out the skin and causing cracking that could let infection in.

Drive through testing is NOT recommended by the director of ODH, therefore, none are set up at this time in Seneca County.

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.

County EMA Objectives

Seneca County EMA is monitoring the minute by minute updates and changes at the local, state and federal level. We are here for information gathering and dissemination and to assist the Seneca County General Health District with their needs.

EMA will also accept and process Personal Protective Equipment from non-emergency sources to help support the supply for the Health Department. Contact the EMA at 419.447.0266 to arrange a drop-off. These resources will be prioritized and dispensed on the directive of the Seneca County General Health District.

County Commissioners

The Commissioners have advised the elected county officials and offices to limit their in-person contact with the public by doing business by phone, text and email for the time being. The Commissioners have also canceled some meetings and have been staying in contact with the rest of the county through conference calls to gather information on the swiftly changing landscape of this response.

City of Tiffin

Beginning Monday, March 16, 2020, through March 31, 2020, all municipal government offices will be closed to the public, but operations will continue, and employees will continue to report to work and assist residents via phone during this time.

Tiffin Parks and Recreation will be canceling all public programs, events and facility reservations until further notice. Along with these cancellations, it will be prohibited to use our facilities for organized recreational activities and sport leagues

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. The Clerk of Courts and title office is open, but only to the individuals with business. Others will not be admitted to the building.

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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

Below are updated statistics regarding the number of new unemployment claims filed daily in Ohio since Sunday, March 15, 2020.

This Week 3/15--3/19		Last Week 3/8--3/12
Sunday	11,995	562
Monday	36,645	1,263
Tuesday	29,177	1,080
Wednesday	33,238	990
Thursday	28,413	920
TOTAL	139,468	4,815

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services urges individuals to file their claims online, if possible, at unemployment.ohio.gov.

Healthcare

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

EMS

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

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.

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Business

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

24-hour grocery stores have modified their hours to accommodate re-stocking shelves and limiting exposure for their employees. Those that may have been laid off due to business closure should look for temporary work at grocery stores and big-box department stores as well as distribution centers that are now looking for employees on a seasonal basis.

The US Small Business Administration is completing agreements with the State to offer low-interest loans for businesses impacted by COVID-19.

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 22nd. Classes will resume Monday, March 23rd remotely through the end of the spring semester. Heidelberg will lock all exterior doors of buildings Monday, March 23rd 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

As per the Governor's order last week, 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 by 2:30 p.m. each day.

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