



Seneca County EMA Situation Report #6
COVID-19 Response
March 23, 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: 442 (+91 in last 24 hours)

Deaths 6 (Lucas, Cuyahoga and Erie, Franklin, Stark)

Number of counties with cases: Ashland (1), Ashtabula (3), Belmont (2), Butler (17), Carroll (2), Clark (1), Clermont (5), Clinton (1), Columbiana (2), Coshocton (3), Cuyahoga (149), Darke (1), Defiance (2), Delaware (7), Erie (1), Franklin (44), Gallia (1), Geauga (2), Greene (1), Hamilton (26), Hancock (1), Highland (1), Huron (1), Knox (1), Lake (8), Licking (1), Logan (1), Lorain (24), Lucas (9), Madison (1), Mahoning (23), Marion (3), Medina (15), Miami (17), Montgomery (7), Portage (2), Richland (1), Sandusky (1), Stark (12), Summit (28), Trumbull (3), Tuscarawas (2), Union (1), Warren (5), Washington (1), Wood (2)

Seneca County

Confirmed Cases: 0

Deaths: 0

Executive Summary

One day after announcing a "stay at home" order to combat the spread of the coronavirus, Gov. Mike DeWine announced a state hiring freeze. The announcement came Monday as the governor said state revenues are expected to drop precipitously as the economy comes to a virtual standstill due to the spread of the pandemic. Analysts have compared the looming economic hit to the Great Recession, which saw Ohio tax revenue shrunk by double-digit percentages during 2009.

The governor also announced a freeze on new contract services and directed cabinet officials to find cuts of up to 20% in their departments, while acknowledging that some can't meet that goal due to the nature of their missions.

Gov. DeWine issued a Stay at Home order for all of Ohio. This order allows for Ohioans to continue to go to the store for necessities, go to medical appointments and go outside to exercise, walk pets, etc. Parks remain open, but playgrounds and playground equipment are closed at this time. Essential workers and businesses are outlined in the order. He stressed the importance of staying home to combat the community spread of this virus. Don't travel and limit leaving your home to necessary trips only. Follow all CDC recommendations regarding community spread.

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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 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

Mayor Montz has declared a State of Emergency for the City in order to be eligible for upcoming disaster funding through HHS and FEMA. The City playgrounds are also closed to the public until further notice to stem the community spread of the virus however, parks themselves are open to the public during regular hours.

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

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

Employers with a critical need for employees are looking for workers. Go to 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

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.

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. Other information for businesses can be found at coronavirus.ohio.gov.

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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. 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 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, 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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