



## Seneca County EMA Situation Report #16

COVID-19 Response

April 2, 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:** 2547 (+355 in last 24 hours)  
**Deaths:** 81

### Seneca County

**Confirmed Cases:** 4  
**Deaths:** 1  
Recovered: 1

### Resources:

Ohio ODH: [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov)

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

Seneca County General Health District: [senecahealthdistrict.org](https://senecahealthdistrict.org)

### Executive Summary

**GOVERNOR:** DeWine today announced that Director Acton will be signing an amended “Stay at Home” order that extends the date to May 1<sup>st</sup>. The order will begin on Monday. The new order adds additional provisions to fill gaps where they see people still coming together, including:

- The creation of a dispute resolution panel to address discrepancies in enforcement between political subdivisions
- Retail businesses are required to establish a maximum number of people inside at a time
- People traveling to Ohio will be required to self-quarantine for 14 days, except for those who work in other states or along border areas
- Wedding receptions must follow social distancing rules
- Organized sports are prohibited
- Garden centers are open

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- Fishing is allowed, and state parks will not be closed unless people are not following social distancing rules

DeWine also announced the creation of an economic advisory council, to be led by RPM CEO Frank Sullivan, to inform the administration on economic issues.

**TESTING:** ODH has issued [updated guidance](#) in line with CDC testing guidelines. The new information includes recommendations on prioritizing tests for certain patients and health care professionals.

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).

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

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

Seneca County Health Commissioner will produce Facebook Live videos 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**

**The County Outdoor Warning System will be tested this Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 11am as regularly scheduled.**

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**

On March 24, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced a new initiative to collect plasma, referred to as convalescent plasma, from those who have recovered from this new coronavirus (COVID-19) to treat patients with serious or immediately life-threatening COVID-19 infections. Convalescent plasma has antibodies specific to COVID-19 making it ideal for these patients. I am proud to share that the American Red Cross will be playing a critical role in helping to execute this new development in the fight against COVID-19.

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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. **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."

### **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**

#### **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.

Declarations and orders by the Mayor and City Council can be found at [tiffinohio.gov](http://tiffinohio.gov).

#### **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.

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## **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**

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**

Tiffin-Seneca Economic Partnership and the Seneca Regional Chamber of Commerce – together with other economic development organizations from the area – have invited the US Small Business Administration's Ray Graves to talk about the new business programs in the CARES Act on Tuesday, April 7 at 2:00 p.m.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act has been signed into law. This Act provides additional assistance for small business owners through the US Small Business Administration (SBA). Emergency Economic Injury Grants can provide up to a \$10,000 Advance (which does not have to be repaid) on the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) for emergency capital. It also includes the Paycheck Protection Loan Program, which offers forgiveness of up to 8 weeks of payroll based on employee retention and salary levels, no SBA fees, and at least six months of deferral with maximum deferrals of up to a year.

SBA Lender Relations Specialist Ray Graves provided an overview to these new programs, talked about how to apply them, and answer questions from webinar participants. Graves joined the Cleveland office of the SBA in 2013, and has been working to help businesses obtain SBA financing since 1999.

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More information can be found at [senecasuccess.wordpress.com](http://senecasuccess.wordpress.com).

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 have distributed the resources that we have maintained and looking for ways to support other agencies who support individuals with Developmental Disabilities.

As per the Governor's order, schools are closed through May 1st 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**

Andrew Saul, Commissioner of Social Security, reminds the public that Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefit payments will continue to be paid on time during the COVID-19 pandemic. The agency also reminds everyone to be aware of scammers who try to take advantage of the pandemic to trick people into providing personal information or payment via retail gift cards, wire transfers, internet currency, or by mailing cash, to maintain Social Security benefit payments or receive economic impact payments from the Department of the Treasury.

"Social Security will pay monthly benefits on time and these payments will not be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic," Commissioner Saul said. "I want our beneficiaries to be aware that scammers may try to trick you into thinking the pandemic is stopping or somehow changing your Social Security payments, but that is not true. Don't be fooled."

**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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