



Seneca County EMA Situation Report #24
COVID-19 Response
April 14, 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: 7153 (+272 in last 24 hours)
Probable: 127
Confirmed Deaths: 309
Probable Deaths: 15

Seneca County

Confirmed Cases: 9
Deaths: 1
Recovered: 4

Resources:

Ohio ODH: coronavirus.ohio.gov

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

Seneca County General Health District: senecahealthdistrict.org

Executive Summary (Thanks to Wood County EMA)

Governor DeWine: Medicaid waiver application filed by the governor- This is an 1135 or appendix K. This provides the needed flexibility to address the crisis: bolster telehealth, waive signature requirements to ensure safe distancing, ease obstacles to access nursing home care, allow services to be provided at alternate locations, remove staffing level requirements. This should allow health care workers to focus on meeting the needs of Ohioans. Once they get the approval it will be retroactively applied from 3/1/20. He encouraged businesses and all employers to begin thinking about the new processes they will need to implement when they open back up to protect their employees and the people they serve. Large gatherings of people will be the last box to check off in regards to services coming back. Greater Columbus Convention Center has a temporary 1,000-bed hospital ready for use.

Lt. Governor Husted: He discussed the tools implemented over the last few weeks- dispute resolution commission. Essential business determinations made locally normally, but there have so far been 194 inquiries, 142 did not meet criteria and allowed local rulings to stand. 27 remain under review. 15 it was determined that there was a conflict and it got resolved at the local level, 10 cases where

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commission did rule on the side of the business and overturned the local determination (CBD, pet grooming, car washes) coronavirus.ohio.gov under resources tab. Office of small business relief: 1300 businesses helped so far. More information coronavirus.ohio.gov/businesshelp. Most information on the site under FAQ. Husted also called on business owners to put policies in place to protect their employees.

Dr. Acton: 67,000 tests done in the state so far. Risk factors- anyone can have a difficult time fighting off this virus. Certain folks at risk more than others- COPD, asthma, smokers, those exposed to pollution, heart disease, immunocompromised, obesity, diabetes, kidney disease, liver disease. New order issued in partnership with mayors and listening to those at the local levels- the order is that they are going to be sharing more widely (in a confidential manner) the addresses of those listed as COVID positive via dispatch. Dr. Acton asks that at the very least these responders have on a fabric mask during a response. She has seen an unprecedented level of partnership between health departments, hospitals, nursing homes.

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>.

Seneca County General Health District:

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

Emergency Management Agency

We would like to thank everyone who has donated PPE and other supplies to our health care workers and first responders through the EMA. We are continuing to accept donations of the following items: N95 masks, surgical/procedure masks, gowns, goggles, face shields, eye protection, disinfectant wipes, hand sanitizer, bulk disinfectant, bulk hand soap, Isopropyl alcohol, Lysol concentrated cleaners and thermometers. 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. **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."

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

The Mental Health and Recovery Services Board contracts with Firelands Counseling and Recovery Services who are making the attached resource available to our healthcare workers and first responders during this time.

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.

City of Tiffin

Mayor's Message: All City of Tiffin Municipal buildings shall remain closed to the public, except for employees of the city through the end of day May 1, 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. Current employees should only enter and exit other buildings and offices within the city government if absolutely necessary. This includes all playgrounds and the city compost facility.

Declarations and orders by the Mayor and City Council can be found at tiffinohio.gov.

Job and Family Services

For the week ending April 4, 2020, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) reported 226,007 initial jobless claims to the U.S. Dept. of Labor, which is the second straight week that more than 200,000 new claims were filed by Ohioans. The number of initial jobless claims filed in Ohio over the last three weeks stands at 696,519. To put that in perspective, 364,603 initial jobless claims were filed during the entire YEAR in 2019. Over these last three weeks, ODJFS has distributed more than \$124 million in unemployment compensation payments to more than 195,000 claimants.

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 or coronavirus.ohio.gov to search and apply.

OSS Solid Waste District

Due to the health and safety concerns involving the COVID-19 epidemic for local citizens, contracted businesses, OSS staff, and assisting community service workers and volunteer groups, the District is canceling all spring recycling collection events.

- **Household Hazardous Waste Collection – Saturday, May 2 – CANCELLED**
- **Television & Electronics Collection – Saturday, May 9 – CANCELLED**
- **Ottawa County Appliance Collection – Saturday, June 13 – CANCELLED**

The District plans to hold the scheduled fall recycling collection events. Fall collections will be held to accept materials for household hazardous waste, televisions and electronics, appliances and tires. Fall dates and information can be found at recycleoss.org.

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Administration

The House 2020 Economic Recovery Committee held another meeting today via video conference. Today's witnesses included Neil Tilow from Talbert House, Joe Savarise with the Ohio Hotel Association, John Barker with the Ohio Restaurant Association and Tony Fiore with the Ohio Salon Association.

Representative Upchurch provided the committee with some opening remarks saying that the minority party had concerns with the direction the committee is trending and said that he hopes that the legislators are not ignoring the advice of Director Acton and other medical professionals who warn of too hastily reopening businesses.

Neil Tilow with Talbert House, which helps with prevention, assessment, treatment and reintegration for individuals who have struggled with substance abuse and other mental health needs, made five recommendations for policies that they believe should be implemented once businesses begin to reopen. Those recommendations include continuing telehealth coverage beyond the state of emergency, as well as requiring private insurers to cover those services. He also urged passage of House Bill 365 (Gayle Manning), which will allow for a rapid expansion of the behavioral health workforce.

Joe Savarise and John Barker with the Ohio Hotel Association and Ohio Restaurant Association respectively told the committee of the severe impact that the closures have had on their members. Ohio has lost \$200 million in hotel revenue as of April 4th, and 30% of the state's hotels are anticipated to close in the next 10 days because of a lack of revenue. 51% of Ohio's restaurants have closed throughout the state restrictions, with 3% already deciding to close permanently. An issue the committee and witnesses agreed needs to be addressed is employees' decisions to not come back to work immediately because they might be getting more money from the state and federal assistance programs, which is an issue that has already started to impact hotels and restaurants.

Tony Fiore with the Ohio Salon Association addressed the additional struggles that their industry has faced with many employees being 1099 employees who are unable to currently qualify for unemployment benefits. Ohio is working to get the system established so these employees are able to receive benefits, however, Fiore said he believes that the system is still another three to four weeks away.

Chairman Zeltwanger will be providing committee members with an initial document outlining a blueprint for the reopening of Ohio businesses that they will begin to use as they work on their recommendations.

The committee will meet again tomorrow starting at 12:30 p.m. and may be adding additional dates to accommodate the large amount of feedback they have received.

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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