



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 24, 2020

Stark County Health Departments Issue Guidance for Stark County Risk Level Change

(Stark County, OH) We received word today that Governor Mike DeWine has elevated Stark County to Risk Level 3 (red) of the Ohio Public Health Advisory System. This change in risk level comes with additional guidance for our county's residents. The mask and face covering mandate, issued Thursday, July 23, 2020, will remain in effect for all levels until further notice. Stark County will meet this challenge with action from citizens across our communities. In order to protect our families, friends and neighbors, including our vulnerable populations and those with underlying health issues, as well as reduce the risk level, compliance with the new guidance and mandates is crucial.

Masks and face coverings, social distancing, frequent hand washing and staying home when sick are four simple steps that, when practiced with consistency, will slow the continued spread of COVID-19. As we navigate through this new risk level, we stress the importance of working together and practicing these 4 steps to keep everyone safe.

The Ohio COVID-19 Risk Level Guidelines for the Public provides guidelines for each of the risk levels. In addition to the guidelines for Risk Levels 1 & 2, Risk Level 3 includes:

- Decrease in-person interactions with others.
- Consider necessary travel only.
- Limit attending gatherings of any number.

More information on the Risk Levels can be found at coronavirus.ohio.gov. The health departments will be issuing materials for businesses to use. These resources will be available at RestartStark (<https://coronavirus-response-stark-county-resources-starkcountyohio.hub.arcgis.com/>). Complaints filed through the RestartStark website will be followed up by the health department of jurisdiction. Each health department will continue to provide updates through their social media channels.

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