



## Statement on "Stay Home Until You Know!":

As we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, the Stark County Health Department (SCHD) is releasing messaging on the necessity of remaining isolated until you have been given your test results. If you are already a diagnosed case or a contact, then you should continue your isolation or quarantine for the duration of time required. Testing results should not be used as means to remove yourself from either isolation or quarantine before the specified timeframe. The message to everyone who has received a test for COVID-19 is a simple one: *Stay Home Until You Know!*

*Isolation* keep someone who is sick or tested positive for COVID-19 with or without symptoms away from others, even in their own home.

*Quarantine* keeps someone who was in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 away from others.

Those of you receiving a COVID-19 test, whether exhibiting symptoms or not, should begin isolating until your test results have been shared with you. Here is what you should do if you fit into one of the following scenarios:

*I tested positive for the virus with symptoms:* You should begin isolation for 10-days beginning from symptom onset which means staying in your residence, staying away from others in your home, and having no visitors. All those living in your household and those that you have been in contact with (within 6 feet and longer than 15 minutes) should begin their 14-day quarantine.

*I tested positive for the virus with no symptoms:* We are glad that you are not feeling sick but you could still potentially pass along the virus to someone. You should begin isolation for 10-days from the day you were tested which means staying in your residence, staying away from others in your home, and having no visitors. All those living in your household and those that you have been in contact with (within 6 feet and longer than 15 minutes) should begin their 14-day quarantine.

*I tested negative for the virus with no symptoms:* We are glad that you tested negative and do not have any symptoms. You may return to your regular schedule (as long as you are not a contact to a positive person; if so, you will need to complete your quarantine period).

*I tested negative for the virus but am exhibiting symptoms:* You should remain at home while you are not feeling well. It is important to seek additional guidance from a primary care physician or a community health clinic.

SCHD does receive the results of the tests for those that reside in our jurisdiction and our contact tracers will be in touch with you as soon as possible. It is important to remain in isolation or quarantine for the duration that is specified above. You can refer to the changes to protocol on our handling of cases and contacts below. Please remember to wash your hands frequently, wear your mask or facial covering, keep a social distance of 6 feet or more, and schedule your seasonal flu shot.



## Statement on Changes to Case & Contact Protocols:

SCHD has experienced a high volume of cases and contacts with COVID-19 throughout the county. Unfortunately, we may not be able to speak with everyone in a timely fashion. We are attempting to reach all of our COVID-19 cases by phone or by letter to notify them to isolate and for them to inform all their contacts to quarantine. We will also provide them with their assigned case number. This case number helps us identify the information for such things as exclusion and return letters for work or school.

### *Cases:*

It is important to understand that a case is someone that has been diagnosed with COVID-19. SCHD is asking a case to isolate in their home for 10-days from the date their symptoms first began or if no symptoms then from the date of their test. A case should remain in isolation until they are fever free for at least 24 hours without taking any fever reducing medications and symptoms have improved.

If a case is past the 10-day isolation period and symptoms have not improved, please call a primary care physician or a community health clinic for additional medical attention. Cases should be sure to inform the facility that they have COVID-19. SCHD also requests that anyone else that lives within the home of a case to quarantine for 14-days from their last exposure to them. This means that the case and others within the home should be staying home from work, school, and other activities outside the home.

### *Contacts:*

In an effort to lower the spread of COVID-19 virus in our community, SCHD is requesting that all cases notify individuals they had close contact with during the timeframe they would have been contagious. This contagious timeframe would have started 2 days before case's first symptoms started/or the day a case was tested, and would continue throughout the course of a case's isolation period. Cases will be asked to speak with contacts so that they begin their quarantine for 14-days from their last exposure to them. This means that contacts should stay home from work, school, and other activities outside the home.

### *Am I a close contact to a case?*

- Has been within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes (total/cumulative time) starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic clients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated,
- Has provided care in the home to someone who is sick with COVID-19,
- Had direct physical contact with them (e.g., hugged or kissed them),
- Shared eating or drinking utensils, (included shared e-cigarettes, vape pens) or
- Had unprotected direct contact with infectious secretions or excretions of the infected person (e.g., was coughed/sneezed on, touched used tissues with a bare hand)



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Cases should be sure to share with their close contacts the assigned case number (if they received one from the SCHD) and, if possible, the date the case was last with them (the contact's exposure date). If a close contact needs an exclusion or release letter for work or school, SCHD can provide those. If a close contact should develop symptoms, follow up with a primary care physician or community health clinic and then call the health department. Cases and Contacts can call the health department for question related to COVID-19 isolation or quarantine by calling the hotline phone number at 330-451-1681.

### *Additional Changes to Protocols:*

SCHD will be working with local school districts to best serve our teachers, students and parents. Cases will still be the focus of SCHD while their close contacts will be followed up with by school officials. If you child is a contact, it would be advised to contact your child's school or district office.

SCHD has created a daily monitoring checklist for any resident to track their state of health.



*"Striving Toward a **Healthier** Community."*

7235 Whipple Ave. NW, North Canton, OH 44720 | [StarkHealth.org](http://StarkHealth.org) | 330.493.9904

# Daily Home Screening Checklist

## Section 1: Symptoms

If your child has any of the following symptoms, it may indicate a possible illness that may decrease the student's ability to learn and also put them at risk for spreading an illness to others. Please check your child for these symptoms daily.

- Temperature of 100 degrees or higher
- Felt feverish
- Sore throat
- Congestion
- Runny nose
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Wheezing
- Chest pain
- Diarrhea
- Headache
- Rigors (shakes)
- Chills
- Nausea or vomiting
- Abdominal pain
- Muscle or body aches
- New loss of taste or smell
- Fatigue

## Section 2: Close Contact/Potential Exposure

- Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19
- Traveled to a hot spot in the United States according to the travel advisory at [Coronavirus.Ohio.gov](https://www.coronavirus.ohio.gov) or an international hot spot according to travel guidance on [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) (subject to change daily or weekly)

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### IMPORTANT\*:

If a student answers YES to any of the questions in Section 1 or YES to any of the questions in Section 2, the student should be referred for evaluation to their health care provider and be called off from school.