



## GUIDANCE ON MOVING TO PURPLE

# HELPING OUR COMMUNITY NAVIGATE LEVEL 4 - PURPLE ACCORDING TO THE OHIO PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY SYSTEM

Taking proper precautions as Stark County reaches  
Level 4 - Purple during the global pandemic.





## Moving to Public Emergency Level 4 - Purple

### *How did we get here?*

The State of Ohio has seen a substantial increase in cases of COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic in March. Stark County has also seen a consistent rise over the past few months and has remained at Public Emergency Level 3 - Red mostly due to the amount of cases per 100,000. The health departments of Stark County have put this document together to help answer questions and offer guidance on moving to Public Emergency Level 4 - Purple. There have only been a few counties that have reached this level and it is necessary for health officials in Stark County to prepare for that as well. This document will be updated as we navigate the pandemic to highlight holidays and other significant moments in time.

According to the Ohio Public Health Advisory System, Public Emergency Level 4 - Purple is a "severe exposure and spread. Only leave home for supplies and services. Follow all current health orders." It is the highest level of the system and is a determinant in how important it is to follow all precautions from public health officials. A county has to meet 6-7 indicators for two consecutive weeks with the first week being on watch and remaining at Public Emergency Level 3 - Red. Indicators can be read [here](#).

Stark County has surpassed over 10,000+ cases since the beginning of the pandemic and has seen over 200+ deaths of residents. Some good news in this fight is that over 6,000+ people are presumed recovered from the virus. All of the health departments also want to remind the community of the signs and symptoms of COVID-19: fever of 100 degrees or higher, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, runny nose, abdominal pain, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea.

A simple message to all of Stark County residents would be to just say 'no' to any gathering during the holiday season. This is difficult for many. This is important to keep these numbers down by avoiding large crowded areas or events. Continue to wash your hands frequently after touching high touch surfaces and wear a mask or facial coverings at all times in public. Please keep your distance from others of at least 6 feet and stay home if you are feeling sick. No precautionary measure is fool proof nor are any of these cures for the virus; however, they are proven to work.

You can stay updated at the countywide platform RestartStark at [Coronavirus.StarkCountyOhio.gov](https://Coronavirus.StarkCountyOhio.gov). It is important to stay in the know throughout this pandemic but make sure that the resource is reliable and are from health experts. We are battling both a pandemic and an infodemic that leads to misinformation. Stay strong and stay healthy as we continue to navigate this pandemic. #KeepStarkHealthy







# STARK COUNTY HAS MOVED TO LEVEL 4 – PURPLE

The Ohio Department of Health has designated Stark County as Level 4 or “Purple” in the Ohio Public Health Advisory System. Under a Level 4 Public Health Emergency represents risk for severe exposure and spread, with recommendations to only leave home for supplies and services.

## **Risk Level Guidelines**

1. Self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19. Get tested if you develop symptoms. Community testing locations can be found [here](#).
2. If you have been in contact with someone that has recently tested positive for COVID-19 or someone with COVID-19 symptoms, stay home 14 days after your last contact with that person and monitor yourself for symptoms. If you are tested for COVID-19 during the quarantine period and test negative, you need to remain in quarantine for the full 14 day period in case symptoms develop. [Understanding Contact Tracing](#)
3. If you are diagnosed with COVID-19, remain in isolation for 10 days after symptom start and resolution of fever for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medications, and with improvement of other symptoms.
4. There is an increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19 among older adults and those who have chronic diseases like asthma or diabetes, are obese or overweight, who smoke or have a history of smoking. Avoid contact with anyone who is considered high-risk to protect them. High-risk individuals should take extra care to follow precautions.
5. Stores should consider offering hours available for seniors only shopping to reduce exposure risk. [AARP Guidance](#)
6. Get your annual flu shot! SCHD has created an FAQ on the flu season during the global pandemic with times for clinics at our department.

## **ODH Flu Activity & Flu Shot Finder**

7. Limit gatherings during the holiday season to ensure safety for all those in attendance including older family members and those with underlying health conditions. **ODH Holiday Guidance 2020-2021**

8. For schools that are providing hybrid or full in-person education, holding extracurricular activities or sporting events, high vigilance to safety precautions is essential. Students should not gather in groups outside the schools setting and school activities.

**ODH Education and Sector Requirements**

9. Stay at home and do not travel unless necessary. If you must go out, maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet from others and wear a mask.

10. Consider working remotely if your place of employment allows it.

**CDC on Working from Home**

11. Follow good hygiene standards, including:

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Use hand sanitizer frequently.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Cover coughs or sneezes (e.g., into a tissue, or elbow).
- Symptom self-evaluation monitoring.

**Document of the COVID-19 Response Team  
of Stark County, Ohio**

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