



"Striving Toward a Healthier Community."

Working & Learning During the Pandemic

Statement on testing and returning to work or school:

Early in the reopening process for businesses and schools, the goal of the Stark County Health Department (SCHD) was to offer a better understanding of when an individual should be excluded from school or work and when they should return. Our department has continued to work with many businesses, school districts, private schools, and universities on handling cases, contacts or those with an alternate explanation for their sickness.

First and foremost, if someone (adult or child) has been properly tested and/or clinically diagnosed as a case of COVID-19 then that person must isolate for a period of 10 days. They may only be released to return to work or school by their local health department after completing isolation and have been 24 hours fever-free, without taking fever reducing medications. If the person obtains a negative test result within the period of isolation, the person is still required to continue isolation for 10 days.

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

Second, a known close contact (within 6 feet of a case of COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes) must complete a 14-day quarantine, even if test results are negative for COVID-19. They may only be released to return to work or school by their local health department after completing quarantine. If the person obtains a negative test result within the period of quarantine, the person is still required to continue isolation for 14 days. Additionally, if the contact develops symptoms, then a new 10 day period of isolation begins for the contact and is now considered a probable case.

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

Those who are experiencing COVID-19 like symptoms and have not been tested or officially designated a case or contact should remain home until the end of the infectious period which is 10 days. We recommend that you follow up with your primary care physician or community health clinic. The following are 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.

As we navigate uncharted territory, know that the SCHD is here to help by answering any questions that you may have. Please reach out to SCHD by calling 330.493.9914 or visiting our website at StarkHealth.org for more information. You may also want to direct specific questions to your place of employment or to your child's school or district. We have included some helpful links below to present some example scenarios and further guidance.

Helpful links:

[Being Excluded from Work or School and When to Return During the Global Pandemic - from SCHD](#)

[COVID-19 Checklist for Isolation or Quarantine - from Ohio Department of Health](#)

[COVID-19 Checklist for When You Are Sick - from Ohio Department of Health](#)

[FAQ for Public and Private Schools - from SCHD](#)