



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 3, 2021

Updated Recommendations for Face Coverings Due to “Substantial” Transmission Classification

(Stark County, Ohio) - On July 27, 2021 the Centers for Disease Control made changes to the interim public health recommendations for people fully vaccinated adding a recommendation for fully vaccinated people to wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission of COVID. As of August 1, 2021, the level of community transmission in Stark County is considered "**substantial**".

In response to the rising rates of transmission and the status of substantial community spread, Stark County’s Health Departments recommend following the updated CDC guidelines on masking, encouraging everyone to wear a mask regardless of vaccination status when at an indoor public setting.

Almost all new COVID infections are in persons who have not been fully vaccinated. Vaccination is still the best strategy for the prevention of COVID illness. Current vaccines are safe and effective at preventing the spread of the virus that causes COVID, as well as helping to prevent serious illness, even against COVID variants currently circulating in the U.S.

If you are not already vaccinated, please consider doing so as soon as possible for your own health, the health of your family, and the health of those around you. COVID vaccinations are available at each of the Health Departments as well as most pharmacies and healthcare facilities in Stark County. Find current vaccine information at RestartStark under Vaccination Resources.

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