



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 8, 2020

### **Updated guidance for quarantine recommended for some Stark County residents exposed to COVID-19**

(Stark County, Ohio) On December 3, 2020 the Ohio Department of Health released updated guidelines for quarantine following possible COVID-19 exposure. The State of Ohio health officials continue to recommend a 14-day quarantine period as the safest way to prevent spreading the virus that causes COVID-19. This is especially true in settings where people live, work, or visit congregate living facilities, high density workplaces, or other settings where there is a high potential of community transmission of this virus.

“At a time where we are experiencing a surge in community transmission of COVID-19, the standard 14-day quarantine period is the safest and most sensible recommendation,” according to the commissioners of Stark County’s four health departments.

For individuals not in one of the high-risk categories, the four health departments in Stark County will recommend a 10-day quarantine as long as the individual does not present a significant risk to the community. “For many people, this is a safe option provided that the person sticks with the recommendations for quarantine and continues to monitor their symptoms for the full 14-day period,” according to the health commissioners.

These new protocols will begin Wednesday, December 9th. Anyone who was previously contacted regarding quarantine should continue with the 14-day protocol.

The option for a 7-day quarantine period with a negative COVID-19 test is not recommended by Stark County’s health departments. Currently, the county does not have the testing capacity or the staff to be able to use this option safely. Contact tracers and staff of the four health departments will work to determine the best period of quarantine for contacts in Stark County.

According to Stark County’s four health commissioners, “Now is not the time to make changes in our isolation guidelines that are likely to make the current situation worse.” The 10-day isolation period for diagnosed cases in Stark County remains unchanged. Cases must complete the full 10-day isolation period away from others to ensure safety for those living in their home. A diagnosed case can come out of isolation once symptoms have improved and they have been fever free without taking any fever reducing medications for 24 hours.

Public health recommendations for COVID-19 continue to evolve and are updated as new scientific evidence becomes available. The Ohio Department of Health modified guidance to meet the specific needs of our state and considerations for local circumstances and resources.

Stark County residents are reminded to use the RestartStark platform for information on COVID-19 by visiting [Coronavirus.StarkCountyOhio.gov](https://Coronavirus.StarkCountyOhio.gov).

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