



FAQ FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS

# HELPING YOU NAVIGATE THE SCHOOL YEAR SUCCESSFULLY DURING THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC

Responsibly reopening our schools is necessary to reduce the spread of COVID-19 throughout the school year.

**7235 WHIPPLE AVE NW | NORTH CANTON, OH 44720**  
**330.493.9904 | STARKHEALTH.ORG**

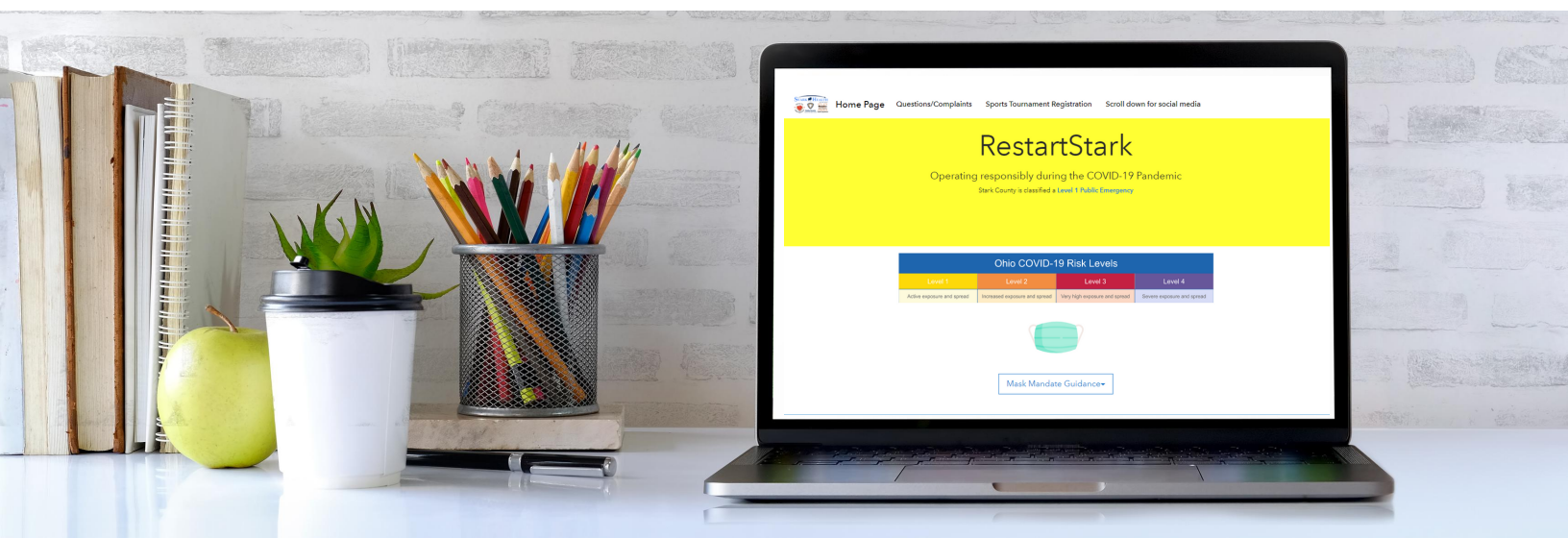
*"Our mission is to assess, protect, promote, and improve the health of Stark County through leadership, quality service, and community partnerships."*

## About the FAQ for Parents & Students

This frequently asked questions (FAQ) document is to be used by parents and students who would like more information regarding the opening of schools in the Fall. The following answers come from procedures supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH).

The FAQ touches on the recommendations of the Stark County Health Department (SCHD) to schools, parents, and students as the new school year approaches. You can find a PDF of this document on our department website at [StarkHealth.org](http://StarkHealth.org).

The SCHD encourages following this guidance and guidance laid out by the CDC, ODH, and the school district that your child(ren) attend. Questions on the following information can be found at the countywide RestartStark page which can be found by visiting [www.Coronavirus.StarkCountyOhio.gov](http://www.Coronavirus.StarkCountyOhio.gov). The site also offers a place to file complaints, download posters, review new state orders, and more from this site. Specific questions regarding your child's school should be referred to your district for further information on reopening plans.



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# MAKING THE BEST DECISION FOR YOUR CHILD

*The roots of education are bitter,  
but the fruit is sweet. – Aristotle*

## **Q: Is it safe for my child(ren) to go back to school this Fall?**

**A:** The school districts have taken steps to mitigate risks, to the extent possible, based on recommendations from health professionals. Through cleaning initiatives and the potential for online learning, students in Stark County are still on the right track for academic success. Your role is to ensure that they are wearing their mask or facial covering, washing their hands frequently, and keeping their distance from others. SCHD strongly encourages parents to take your child's temperature and screen your child for COVID-19 symptoms prior to sending them to school.

Please call your respective district for further information on reopening plans.

## **Q: What happens if my child has been around someone that tests positive for COVID-19?**

**A:** The SCHD recommends that your child(ren) should quarantine for 14 days at home if they have been in contact with a person who tested positive for COVID-19. This includes close contact for longer than 15 minutes and if a mask or facial covering was not worn. Parents/guardians should call and schedule a telehealth visit for the child with their primary care physician (PCP) or community health center. If testing is recommended please also contact the local health department where the student/child or staff member lives because they may be considered a probable case and this will start a local health department (LHD) investigation. A positive test then initiates contact tracing. SCHD encourages parents to reach out to the appropriate school district official to make them aware and to see how your child(ren) can opt into online classes if needed and offered by the district.

Please refer to the SCHD *Exclusion and Return to Work/School* document at [StarkHealth.org](https://starkhealth.org).

**Visit RestartStark for more information on COVID-19, safe reopening guidance, posters, and more.**



**Q: Should I call my child(ren) off if they are showing symptoms of sickness?**

**A:** The SCHD would recommend that if your child(ren) is exhibiting ANY signs of illness, it would be best to keep them home until their sickness has subsided. The following are possible symptoms for COVID-19: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle aches or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, runny nose, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea. If your child(ren) is experiencing any of these, you may want to contact their primary care physician. The primary care physician or nurse will offer guidance on next steps or schedule testing for COVID-19.

Students, who are feeling well enough, may be able to make up assignments on the online option if offered by the district. Parents or guardians should communicate with the teacher(s) and school if necessary for assignments.

Please call your respective district for further information on reopening plans.

**Q: Will my other children need to stay home even if they have no symptoms (asymptomatic)?**

**A:** The SCHD recommends that if one of your children is exhibiting ANY signs of illness, then your other children should stay home as well. Everyone should continue to stay home until the child exhibiting symptoms is evaluated by a health care provider and given either documentation of a diagnosis or cleared by the school nurse to return. If the diagnosis is COVID-19, everyone in the home would continue their quarantine until their designated day given to them by SCHD. Parents or guardians should communicate with the school to make them aware.

Please call your respective district for further information on reopening plans.

**Q: Will my child(ren) still be served a hot lunch at school?**

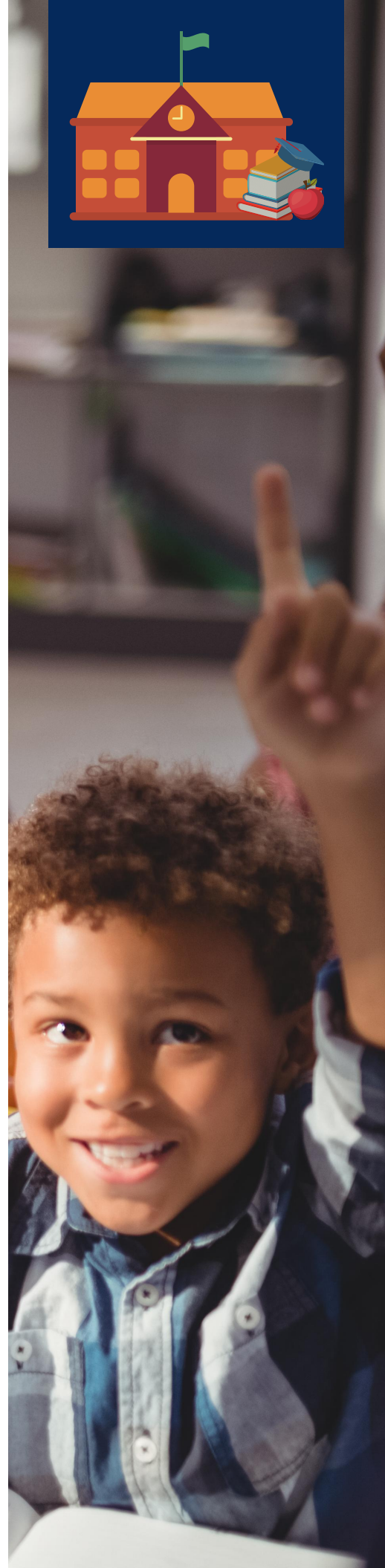
**A:** School cafeterias will operate using State COVID-19 Guidelines for food services. Lunches from the cafeteria should be pre-plated and served by those workers in the lunchroom. Other areas of the school could be used for lunches to help reduce the capacity in the cafeteria. The meal options and eating arrangements will vary by district.

Please call your respective district for further information on reopening plans.

**Q: Will hand washing and hand sanitizing be available for my child(ren) during the day?**

**A:** Yes, all districts within the SCHD jurisdiction have offered comprehensive plans to offer hand sanitizing and will remind students to wash their hands throughout the day. The SCHD recommends that parents send their child(ren) with an extra mask or facial covering in a brown paper bag with their name on it, packet of tissues, and a small hand sanitizer with them each day.

Please refer to the CDC on the importance of hand washing.





**Q: Are drinking fountains going to be turned on during the school day?**

**A:** This may vary by district but the SCHD recommends that all drinking fountains be unavailable due to the high touch nature of the surfaces. If districts are allowing drinking fountains to operate, they should be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized multiple times a day. Students and staff should be allowed to carry water bottles with them throughout the day and inside the classroom.

Please call your respective district for further information on reopening plans.

**Q: What is the cleaning frequency and procedure for classrooms?**

**A:** School districts, within our jurisdiction, have comprehensive cleaning plans for district facilities, vehicles, and equipment. The SCHD recommends that each district refer to CDC guidelines on disinfecting throughout the school day and after hours. Only EPA sanitizers and disinfectants should be used. Districts should be cleaning surfaces frequently throughout the day, especially high touch surfaces and shared materials. That includes door handles, light switches, drinking fountains, etc. for the safety of students. Students are also encouraged to wipe down desks with approved sanitizer after use in classrooms and other areas within the school.

The SCHD recommends districts to quarantine books or materials being returned to the library for 48 hours. Transmission of COVID-19 virus on paper products is believed to be insignificant. If books can be stored by student in an individual student desk, that is fine. Otherwise, use good handwashing after handling the books. If sharing books between classes, emphasize good handwashing both before and after handling of the books. Staff and students should use effective hand hygiene when handling books and materials. The placement of sanitation wipes or disinfectants (labeled for use against COVID-19) should be available in each room and shared space areas.

These cleaning procedures may vary by district and all questions should be referred your respective district.

**Q: If my child(ren) has allergies, what happens if they have a reaction to the chemicals?**

**A:** The SCHD recommends that each district inform parents or guardians of any and all sanitizers and disinfectants being used in each building. If the student is allergic or starts to experience a reaction, a staff member should be informed and contact the main office or school nurse. Students may need to be excused early before an area is thoroughly cleaned or sanitized. CDC recommends certain techniques and cleaning safety tips.

Please call your respective district for further information on reopening plans.



**Q: Will my child(ren) be required to wear a mask or face covering? If so, are schools offering them?**

**A:** Yes, all students Kindergarten through 12th grade are required to wear a face mask in public settings especially when social distancing of 6 feet or more is not possible. This comes directly from the current state mandate by Gov. DeWine and Health Director Himes. Students should be wearing masks or facial coverings when changing class or when social distance cannot be maintained. Many districts are allowing students to remove masks only when social distancing is possible. The SCHD recommends following the mask or facial covering policy for districts. Some school districts may have masks available but students are responsible for having their own each day. Cloth masks or face coverings should be washed each day.

Please call your respective district to see if they are offering a medical exemption.

**Q: Are schools offering temperature checks to children?**

**A:** The SCHD recommends that districts offer a process for staff and students to self-report their temperatures during morning arrivals. Parents should also consider purchasing a thermometer during school supply shopping. Further recommendations include, temperature teams to take the temperature of each staff member in the afternoon, temperature stations for those feeling warm, and mandatory checks for visitors/vendors into the school building.

If a staff member or student has an elevated temperature (100 degrees or higher), then they should be excused for the rest of the day. Those with an elevated temperature should seek advice from their health care provider.

Please call your respective district for further information on reopening plans.

**Q: Is gym or recess planning to be offered to children?**

**A:** The SCHD recommends that students still be offered recess or gym at their appropriate grade level. This is an important part of the school day and offers children the chance to be active. Masks or facial coverings do not need to be worn unless social distancing of 6 feet or more cannot be maintained for the duration of the period.

Please call your respective district for further information on reopening plans.

**Q: What are safety measures for busing and bus stops?**

**A:** The SCHD recommends that all those that ride a bus to school socially distance 6 feet or more when being picked up or dropped off at the bus stop. Many districts within our jurisdiction are asking students to fill in the bus from the back, sit with sibling(s) if going to the same household, and wear a mask or facial covering for the duration of the ride if social distances cannot be maintained.







**Q: (Bus stops continued)**

**A:** It is recommended that all bus drivers should be wearing a mask and spray disinfectant on surfaces once all students have exited the bus when the bus is returned to the bus garage or before the next pick up/drop off.

Please call your respective district for further information on reopening plans.

**Q: Can my child(ren) ride home with another student?**

**A:** The SCHD recommends that students who are accepting a ride home from a fellow student or their parent, wear a mask or facial covering for the duration of the ride. This may vary by district and you should refer to their policy on car pools or ride sharing.

Please call your respective district for further information on reopening plans.

**Q: What does it mean for our schools if our county is elevated to red or purple risk levels in the Ohio Public Health Advisory System?**

**A:** This decision is up to the school district and its board of education unless otherwise directed by the governor or health director to close because of the increased threat of COVID-19. School districts are advised to toughen their current procedures and practices if indicators reach levels of caution outlined by the state. Continued practices like social distancing, hand washing, wearing of masks or facial coverings, and other procedures from the state should be adhered to.

Please call your respective district for further information on reopening plans.

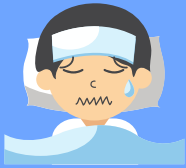
**Q: Does my child still need vaccinated before the beginning of the school year?**

**A:** Yes, immunizations are more important than ever, and at this time, we expect students to be current on their immunizations unless they have an exemption on file.

Please refer to the attached information on SCHD immunization clinics.

*Together, we will protect our children and our community from this global pandemic*  
- Health Commissioner Kirkland Norris, RS, MPH

# UNDERSTANDING CONTACT TRACING



Person A

Confirmed case - self-isolate until 24 hours with no fever and respiratory symptoms have improved (e.g. cough, shortness of breath) and 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.



Person B

Contact of case - if closer than 6 ft. for longer than 15 minutes then Person B must stay home and monitor symptoms. If a casual contact of a confirmed case, self-isolation should take place for 14 days after their last contact with the confirmed case.



Person C

Contact of contact - should stay home or monitor symptoms only if Person B has developed symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19.



## Why is the health department contacting me?

Once you are a confirmed case, the health department is notified and will call to help track your sickness. They can offer education and guidance while monitoring symptoms.



IF CONTACTED BY THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT, PLEASE ANSWER OR CALL THEM BACK!

## Key tips to stay social but remain safe from COVID-19



Wash Up



Mask Up



Back Up



Stay home when sick!



Visit [RestartStark](https://RestartStark.com) for more information!



# VACCINATIONS FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

## What is Vaccines for Children?

The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program helps ensure that all children have a better chance of getting their recommended vaccines. VFC has helped prevent disease and save lives. In 2019, 74% of our clients qualified for the vaccine program.

## Vaccines Offered

The following list of vaccines are normally required for school children in Ohio:

- Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DTaP/DT Tdap/Td)
- Polio
- Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)
- Hepatitis B
- Chickenpox (Varicella)
- Meningococcal (MCV<sub>4</sub>)

Call 330.493.9928 ext. 2050 for an appointment

## FAQ for Parents & Children

**Q: Will vaccine clinics be offered at my child's school this year?**

**A:** No. Due to COVID-19 there will be no vaccine clinics offered at Stark County schools for the 2020-2021 school year. There will be limited sites around the county and at the Stark County Health Department.

**Q: My child is doing the online option for their school district. Does he/she still need their vaccinations?**

**A:** Yes. Though some children may be doing their school year from home, Stark County school children are still required to receive their normal vaccinations for the 2020-2021 school year.

**Q: Does our family need to have health insurance for the VFC program?**

**A:** No. Those with or without insurance can receive vaccinations at the Stark County Health Department or the limited sites around the county. Those taking part in the VFC program will only be charged a \$21 administration fee.

**Q: Is my child eligible for vaccines through the VFC program?**

**A:** Any child from birth through 18 years of age is eligible if he/she meets at least one of the following criteria: does not have health insurance, is enrolled in Medicaid (including Medicaid HMOs), is an American Indian or Alaskan Native or has health insurance that does not pay for vaccines.



Visit [StarkHealth.org](https://StarkHealth.org) for more information!



# Stark County Health Department Immunization Clinics



## Vaccine cost is based on eligibility

The Health Department now accepts several health insurance companies. Please let us know when scheduling your appointment what insurance coverage you have. Medicaid and Medicaid HMO's are accepted. If you have no insurance then you are a self-pay client and payment is due at the time of the visit. SCHD provides age appropriate preventive vaccines regardless of the patient's ability to pay for children eligible for the Ohio Department of Health's (ODH) Vaccine for Children Program (VFC) and for adults who qualify under the ODH Adult Immunization Program.

Immunization record is required for children

Children under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

## Clinic Cancellation Policy

All clinics are closed on government holidays. The clinics at the main office are rarely closed due to severe weather however the outlying clinics are closed for weather if the school district in that area is closed.

## Children Clinics

Please call for an appointment (330) 493-9928 ext. 2050

Clinic Location	Scheduled Day	Time	School District Location
Stark County Health Department Clinics 7235 Whipple Ave. NW North Canton, OH 44720	1st Tuesday of every month	9:00-11:00 am	No cancellation for weather
St. Jacobs Lutheran Church 1460 State St NE North Canton, OH 44721	2nd Monday of every month	1:00-3:30 pm	Lake Local Schools
Canal Fulton Christian Fellowship Church 2021 Locust St. S Canal Fulton, OH 44614	3rd Tuesday of every month	1:00-3:30 pm	Northwest Local Schools
Fohl Memorial United Methodist Church 121 Basin St. Navarre, OH 44662	4th Tuesday of every month	9:00-11:00 am	Fairless Local Schools
Stark County Health Department Clinics 7235 Whipple Ave. NW North Canton, OH 44720	1st & 4th Monday of every month	12:30-6:45 pm	No cancellation for weather

## Adult Clinics

Please call for an appointment (330) 493-9928 ext. 2042

Clinic Location	Scheduled Day	Time	School District Location
Stark County Health Department Clinics 7235 Whipple Ave. NW North Canton, OH 44720	Every Thursday	9:00 am -4:00 pm	No cancellation for weather



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