Re-Start Plan
for Preschool and School Programs of the Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities

August 2020

Mission: Supporting people with disabilities and their families.
Effective on March 16, 2020, the preschool and school programs of the Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities transitioned from in-class services to virtual learning due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and orders of the Ohio Health Director and Governor. Children did not attend the Preschool programs (Eastgate Early Childhood and Family Center and Taft Elementary Center) or School Age programs (R. Stallman Southgate School or Avondale Elementary) for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. Virtual learning took the form of a coaching model, whereby Stark DD staff coached parents/family members on activities that could be implemented at home to continue education. Bi-monthly Educational Packets were sent home to students by way of Stark DD Transportation.

School age programming at R. Stallman Southgate School will resume August 20. School-age classes will enroll no more than six students per classroom. Preschool students will begin classes the week of August 24th and will enroll no more than nine students per classroom.

Our embedded classes at Avondale Elementary (school age) and Preschool at Taft Elementary will follow the calendars aligned between Stark DD and Plain Local Schools for start dates and attendance. These classes will follow guidelines established by Plain Local Schools and reinforced by each building principal.

Additional specifics related to each facility, transportation, health monitoring and cleaning procedures are outlined in the following pages. Helpful resources are attached at the end.

In the event that the state of Ohio cannot slow the rate of confirmed cases, or a particular class or facility has an overwhelming number of students or staff quarantined, it is always possible that school may be closed with minimum advance notice and all services will again be virtual. We encourage all staff, students and families to maintain personal ‘back-up’ plans in the event circumstances change.

*Guidance from the Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Education, Centers (CDC) for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Stark County Health Department were used in developing this plan.*
Stark DD School and Preschool programs will make every attempt to meet the educational needs of every child. Therefore, both in-school and blended learning (in-school and virtual) will be offered to all students for the 2020-2021 school year.

If students/family members choose to opt out of in-class sessions, then total virtual learning options will be provided. For those students, teachers and other staff will shift to a “coaching” model, where staff will “coach” students or family members on different activities that can be done at home to advance learning, including joining in-class activities when virtually possible.”

**Face coverings:** All students kindergarten and up with developmental disabilities who can wear masks safely are required to do so. Therefore, if your child’s been wearing a face covering while in public, we would encourage you to continue this practice while at school, especially while on the school bus, as social distancing will be more difficult in that environment. The face coverings exception is meant to apply only to people who cannot wear a mask safely for reasons related to the nature of their disability. It does not apply to all people with disabilities at all times by default. Face coverings for staff are required. Visitors will be required to wear face coverings.

**Plan for County Alert Levels:** The Ohio Department of Health has established an [Alert Level System](https://vmhhs.org/caregivers/covid-19-preparedness/ohio-county-alert-levels) for counties in Ohio. If Stark County is determined to be Alert Level 4 (Purple Level), preschool and school programs will shift to all virtual learning and in-school services will be temporarily suspended at least until Level 3 (Red Level) is achieved. **NOTE:** If a particular class or facility has an overwhelming number of students or staff quarantined, learning may shift to all virtual, no matter the Stark County Alert Level.
**GENERAL GUIDELINES**

**Transportation**
Students attending Stark DD School and Preschool Programs will have the choice to use Stark DD yellow bus transportation or to be transported by parents. All Stark DD Transportation staff will wear face coverings. Stark DD Bus staff will be taking the temperature of each child using a no-touch thermometer prior to loading the bus each morning. Any child who has a fever of greater than 100.0°F will not be allowed to get on the bus.

No more than one student will be on each seat on the bus, except for family members who can sit together. Efforts will be made to seat/space children at least six feet apart. Fortunately, the Stark DD school buses are larger due to the need for wheelchair lifts, so social/physical distancing will be easier. The number of students on a bus route is also lower than typical school routes since services are provided door-to-door.

Parents choosing to personally transport their child will need to make a nine week commitment. Students who are transported by parents will have temperatures taken prior to being admitted into the building. Please notify your building principal/director for these parent drop off procedures.

All route changes require a 2 week notice to make a change to the buses if families move or change daycares.

**Sanitizing**
Sanitizing will be an important aspect of daily routines. Classrooms, furniture, materials and buses will also be sanitized on a regular basis and each evening the building will receive a thorough cleaning. Maintenance personnel, teachers, assistants, bus drivers, bus assistants and other staff will all be trained on cleaning guidelines and be responsible for sanitizing workspaces each day. For student personal care, staff will clean area before use and then again after use for a double protection.

Staff and students will be encouraged to wash their hands upon entering the building and frequently throughout the day. Parents/family members are also encouraged to practice and teach proper handwashing (at least 20 seconds).
Virus Exposure

Procedures at home, school

Parents/family members are asked to monitor their child’s health to be sure he/she is not showing symptoms of the COVID-19 virus. Please do not send your child to school if they have the following:

- Fever of greater than 100.0°
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Or at least two of the following:

- Fever or chills
- Fatigue
- Sore throat
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Congestion or runny nose

If these symptoms are apparent when the child is in class, the family will be asked to pick up the child to return home. Children who become sick at school with suspected COVID symptoms will be cared for in a separate clinic room until picked up by family.

Positive COVID-19 test or “Contact”

If a student or staff member tests positive for the COVID-19 virus, the person will not attend school and should be isolated for at least 10 days since symptoms appeared. They should not return until there has been a 24 hour fever free period without the use of fever reducing medications, and symptoms have improved.

Notify the school if a student or a family member has been exposed, diagnosed or has symptoms of COVID-19. The nurse will follow up and provide support and guidance. Current guidelines will be followed which may cause exclusion from school.

If a student or staff member is determined to have been in “contact” with a person who has the virus, the individual will not attend school and should be quarantined for fourteen days. “Contact” is defined as being within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset. For example, a person who rides the bus or sits in a classroom within 6 feet of a person with the virus for 15 minutes, the person has experienced a “contact” and would be advised to be quarantined for a total of 14 days. If the person later learns that he/she tests positive for the virus, then the isolation protocol would begin. If a person has “contact” with a “contact,” this person does not require quarantine. (see appendices Contact Tracing and Isolation vs. Quarantine)
The R. Stallman Southgate School program will follow a “blended program" model with students having in-person class and virtual learning. Students will attend in person in Teams (Red/Yellow Team Calendar), 2 days a week and virtual learning 2 days a week. This will allow us to reduce the total number of students in the building to 50% capacity each day, therefore meeting the guidelines set by the Ohio Department of Health. Per the Governor’s previous guidance and to allow for greater social/ physical distancing, the class sizes have also been reduced to no more than 6 students per class. During virtual learning days at home, staff will provide guidance for students/ families. This may include “virtual classroom group lessons," as well as individual instruction.

Face coverings are required for students in kindergarten or older and who do not have disability conditions that prevent face coverings. However, if you have been having your child wear a mask when in public, we would encourage you to continue this practice with school. The face coverings exception is meant to apply only to people who cannot wear a mask safely for reasons related to the nature of their disability. It does not apply to all people with disabilities at all times by default. Face coverings for staff are required. Visitors will be required to wear face coverings.

We will continue our free breakfast program and modifications to lunch service will be in place with students eating in their rooms. Lunches will be delivered to each classroom by staff wearing PPE. Children may still bring in their own lunch. Staff will clearly label student lunch boxes and meals will be stored in designated refrigerated areas as needed.

Large settings will be suspended with students receiving individual class sessions for Adapted PE, Speech, and recess. All classrooms will be assigned a time for gym and recess, but there will only be one classroom at a time with staff wiping down equipment when finished. Each student will have a bin in the classroom so that supplies and favored manipulatives may be kept separate and only used by one child—no shared crayons, scissors, glue, etc.
Preschool Programs

Eastgate Preschool

NOTE: the Preschool at Taft Elementary will follow guidelines established by Plain Local Schools and reinforced by each building principal.

Stark DD Preschool programs will be opening as scheduled the end of August with students attending normal full days Monday through Thursday. A calendar for either Eastgate Early Childhood Preschool or the Preschool at Taft Elementary was included in the annual paperwork packet families received a few weeks ago. These calendars can also be found on our website at https://starkdd.org/services/preschool/. If unforeseen circumstances arise forcing any changes to this plan, you will be notified immediately.

Face coverings are not required for preschool students. However, if you have been having your child wear a mask when in public, we would encourage you to continue this practice with school. The face coverings exception is meant to apply only to people who cannot wear a mask safely for reasons related to the nature of their disability. It does not apply to all people with disabilities at all times by default. Face coverings for staff are required. Visitors will be required to wear face coverings.

To maintain social distance in the cafeteria, we will schedule only two classes at a time in the cafeteria. We have added a large, temporary wall to section off the cafeteria into two sides, so each classroom will have a section to themselves. Children are still permitted to bring their own lunch.

Daily activities will look different than they have in the past. For example, in order to maintain social distancing as much as possible, we will not have open gym times. All classes will be assigned a time to play in the gym each day but it will only be one class at a time with staff needing to sanitize equipment and toys when finished before another class enters. The same precautions will apply for the playground and other group areas. Each student will have a bin in the classroom so that supplies may be kept separate and only used by one child—no shared crayons, scissors, glue, etc.
The following materials have been gathered from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Education and the Stark County Public Health Departments.

Appendices:

- Symptoms of COVID-19
- Daily Home Screening for Students
- How will Contact Tracing work at Stark DD?
- Isolation vs. Quarantine
- Tips for Safe Face Coverings Use
- Masks Reduce Airborne Transmission
COVID-19 can mimic several other common illnesses. Also be aware that the CDC is frequently updating COVID-19 symptoms as they become available. Visit [http://www.cdc.gov/covid19](http://www.cdc.gov/covid19)

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✔️ Symptom of illness

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)
Daily Home Screening Checklist

Section 1: Symptoms
If your child has any of the following symptoms, it may indicate a possible illness that may decrease the student’s ability to learn and also put them at risk for spreading an illness to others. Please check your child for these symptoms daily.

- Temperature of 100 degrees or higher
- Sore throat
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)
- Diarrhea
- New onset of severe headache
- Nausea or vomiting
- Abdominal pain
- Muscle or body aches
- New loss of taste or smell
- Runny nose
- Congestion

Section 2: Close Contact/Potential Exposure

- Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19
- Traveled to a hot spot in the United States according to the travel advisory at Coronavirus.Ohio.gov or an international hot spot according to travel guidance on CDC.gov (subject to change daily or weekly)

Notes:

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

IMPORTANT*:

If a student answers YES to any of the questions in Section 1 and YES to any of the questions in Section 2, the student should be referred for evaluation to their health care provider and be called off from school. Parents: Please complete this short check each morning before your child leaves for school. If you check one of the boxes, please call and report your child’s information to the school. School Programs: (R. Stallman Southgate School and Avondale Elementary) 330-484-2547. Preschool Programs at Eastgate 330-479-3440 or Preschool at Taft 234-714-9994. To call off transportation Bus Garage 330-484-6451.

Visit StarkHealth.org for more information!
How will contact tracing work at Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities?

The Stark County Health Department will take the lead on contact tracing with any CONFIRMED positive COVID-19 cases involving Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities students in school programs and employees. Here is how the process will work:

**Person A**
Confirmed case - self-isolate until at least 24 hours have passed with no fever without use of fever-reducing medications, AND at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, AND symptoms have improved.

**Person B**
Contact of a case - was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 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 Stark County 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.

Stay social...stay safe during COVID-19

Wash Up
Mask Up
Back Up 6 feet
Stay Home when sick!

If the Stark County Health Department confirms a positive COVID-19 case to the Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities, parents, caregivers and employees will receive communication from Stark DD with guidelines, recommendations and directions. The Board will make the determination, in collaboration with the health department, on the need to transition to all virtual learning or the closure of buildings.
Know the Difference

Isolation vs. Quarantine

Isolation
For people who are ill
• Separates people who have a very contagious disease from those who are healthy.
• Restricts the movement of people who have a contagious disease to stop the spread of illness.
• Protects healthy people from getting a contagious disease.
• Lets people who have a contagious disease be cared for in their homes, hospitals or a designated facility.
• Is usually voluntary, but federal, state and local laws may require isolation of people who have a contagious disease to protect the public.

Quarantine
For people who have been exposed, but are not ill
• Applies to people who are not yet ill, but have been exposed to a very contagious disease that could be spread to others.
• Applies to the separation and restriction of movements of people.
• Is a public health strategy to stop the spread of a very contagious disease.
• Protects the public from very contagious diseases.

Social Distancing
One way to help stop the spread of a very contagious disease such as COVID-19 is to limit close contact of people with each other also known as social distancing. Social distancing can include:
• Work telecommuting
• School cancellations
• Cancellation of public gatherings
• Isolation of people who have a contagious disease
• Liberal work leave policies
• Quarantine of people exposed to contagious disease
Tips for safe FACE COVERING USE

1. Clean hands before and after touching the face covering.
2. Remove and store face covering before eating or drinking.
3. Always cover your nose and mouth.
4. Use a securely-placed bandana, scarf, or homemade cloth cover.
5. Avoid touching the face covering. It should not hang on one ear, around the neck or be pushed to the forehead.
6. Wash used face coverings with detergent and hot water, then dry on the hot cycle.
7. Store used face coverings in a bag or bin until they can be laundered.

June 9, 2020
Preventing the spread of COVID-19

Masks Reduce Airborne Transmission

Infectious aerosol particles can be released during breathing and speaking by asymptomatic infected individuals. No masking maximizes exposure, whereas comprehensive masking results in the least exposure.