![United Way of Greater Stark County logo] **VOLUNTEERING DURING THE PANDEMIC**

Keeping volunteers, their families and those they're helping safe during this public health crisis is the highest priority.  We all have a role in making sure that happens. If you plan to volunteer, review these six points:

1. **Stay up to date on orders and precautions.**

   [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
   [Ohio Department of Health](#)

2. **Confirm the need.**

   Volunteers should first confirm support is still essential and expected.

3. **Assess your situation.**

   Make sure you are not sick before you volunteer. Your temperature should be below 100.4. Also, assess any exposure you've had through travel or close contact with a person diagnosed or exhibiting symptoms.

   Even if you are healthy, only volunteer if the virus does not pose an extraordinary risk to your family, including some of the following risk factors: over 65 years old, pregnant, compromised immune system, live with someone with a compromised immune system.

4. **Assess the volunteer situation before arrival**

   Call ahead to the service agency and ask if safety precautions are in place, including whether they:
   - Ask volunteers to take their temperatures before arriving
   - Practice physical distancing of 6' or more
   - Require regular handwashing, sanitizing required
   - Clean the facility – all surfaces should be cleaned thoroughly before and after activities
   - Require personal protective equipment, and whether it's provided, or you need to bring your own

5. **Remain vigilant while volunteering**

   Continue practicing physical distancing while conducting tasks, as well as the other safety precautions listed above.

6. **Consider volunteering from your home**

   When in doubt, stay home. If your personal situation is such that the risk is too high or if you are not comfortable with the volunteer situation, do not take part. You can help from the safety of your home by virtual volunteering. Visit [uwstark.org/random-acts-of-kindness](#) for ideas.