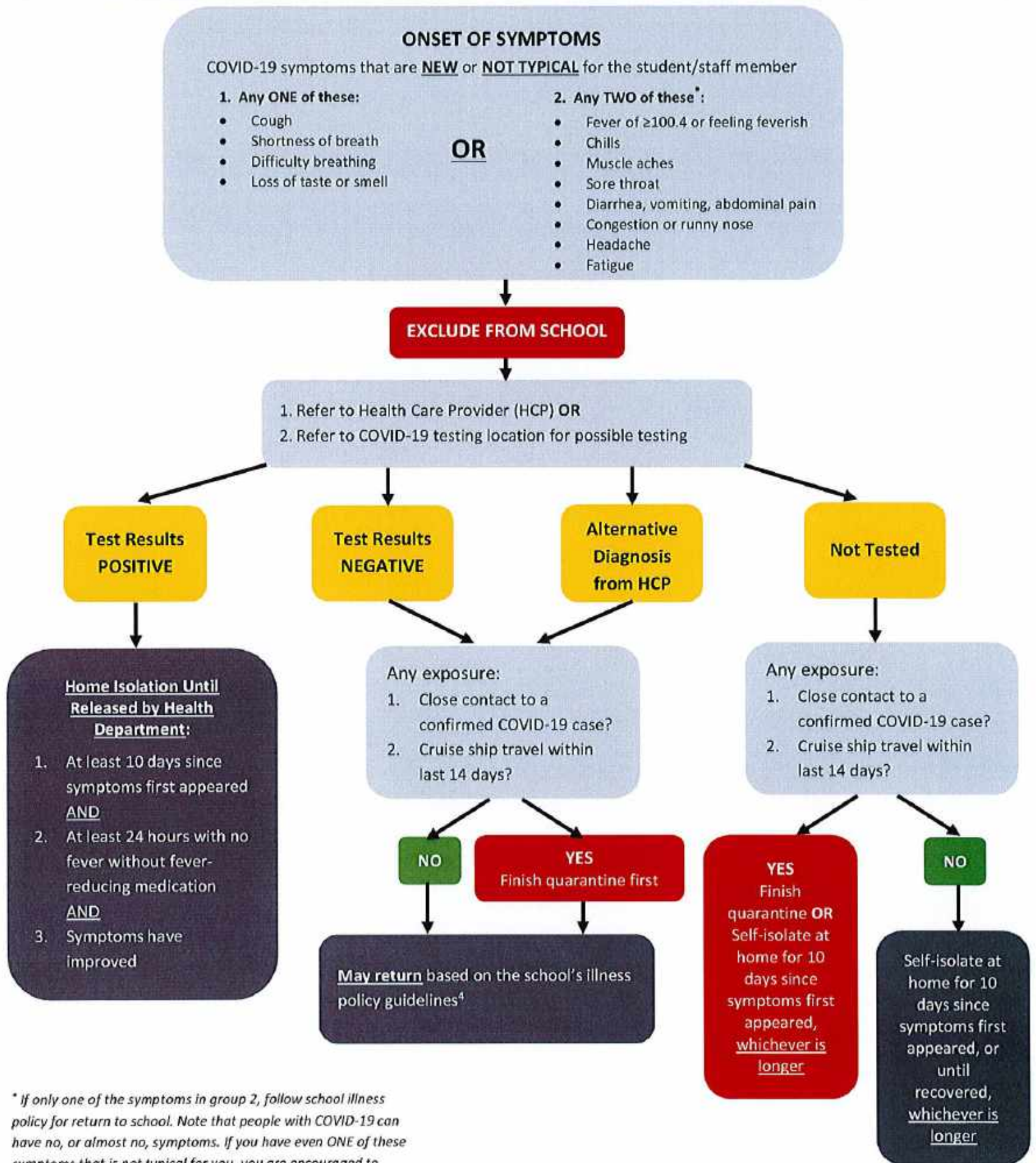


FIGURE 1. FLOWCHART FOR SYMPTOMATIC INDIVIDUALS (STUDENTS OR STAFF MEMBERS)



\* If only one of the symptoms in group 2, follow school illness policy for return to school. Note that people with COVID-19 can have no, or almost no, symptoms. If you have even ONE of these symptoms that is not typical for you, you are encouraged to seek testing.

TABLE 1. STUDENT AND STAFF MEMBER SCENARIOS

Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3	Scenario 4
<p><b>A student/staff person is confirmed to have COVID-19</b></p>	<p><b>A student/staff person is symptomatic<sup>1</sup> and lab results are pending</b></p>	<p><b>A student/staff person is symptomatic<sup>1</sup> but without a COVID-19 test</b></p>	<p><b>A student/staff person is a close contact<sup>3</sup> to a COVID-19 case</b></p>
<p>The student/staff person <b>AND</b> all household members of the student/staff person are <b>immediately</b> excluded from school.</p> <p>The COVID-19 positive student/staff person must isolate at home. The student/staff person must be excluded from school until</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24 hours with no fever (without the use of fever-reducing medication) <b>and</b></li> <li>• Symptoms<sup>1</sup> have improved <b>and</b></li> <li>• 10 days since symptoms<sup>1</sup> first appeared <b>and</b></li> <li>• Released from isolation by the health department</li> </ul> <p>Household members and the quarantined student/staff who are close contacts<sup>2,3</sup> are excluded for 14 days after their last date of close contact.</p>	<p>The student/staff person is excluded from school until results of the test are available.</p> <p>If test results are <b>positive</b>, see Scenario 1.</p> <p>If test results are <b>negative</b> and the ill student/staff person is a close contact to someone with COVID-19 or had cruise ship travel,<sup>2</sup> they must still finish their quarantine.</p> <p>If test results are <b>negative</b> and the ill student/staff person had no known exposure<sup>2</sup> to COVID-19, they may return in accordance with the school’s illness policy.<sup>4</sup></p> <p>Close contacts do not need to be excluded from school while the symptomatic person is waiting for test results, but should self-monitor for symptoms. If a close contact develops symptoms, they should call their medical provider and/or be tested for COVID-19.</p>	<p>IF THERE IS KNOWN COVID-19 EXPOSURE,<sup>2</sup> exclude from school for whichever is longer of the below actions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-quarantine for 14 days from the last known exposure <b>OR</b></li> <li>• 24 hours fever-free (without the use of fever-reducing medication) <b>and</b> symptoms have improved <b>and</b> 10 days since symptoms first appeared</li> </ul> <p>IF THERE IS NO KNOWN EXPOSURE,<sup>2</sup> then exclude from school until 24 hours fever-free (without the use of fever-reducing medication) <b>and</b> symptoms have improved <b>and</b> 10 days since symptoms first appeared.</p> <p>IF STUDENT/STAFF PERSON HAS AN ALTERNATIVE DIAGNOSIS FROM HEALTH CARE PROVIDER, they may return to school in accordance with the school’s illness policy.<sup>4</sup></p>	<p>The student/staff person must quarantine for <b>14 days since last date of exposure.</b><sup>2</sup> If a close contact has a negative COVID-19 test during this time, the duration of quarantine is still 14 days from last date of exposure.</p> <p>Household members, classmates, and coworkers of the quarantined student/staff person (“contacts of a contact” – see page 5) may continue to attend school and should monitor for symptoms.<sup>1</sup> If symptoms develop, they should call their medical provider to be tested for COVID-19.</p>

<sup>1</sup> Symptoms (should be new or not typical for the individual): Any ONE of cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, loss of taste, loss of smell OR any TWO of fever ≥ 100.4 or feeling feverish, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain, congestion, runny nose, headache, fatigue. If a student or staff member has just one of the second list, encourage testing since some with COVID-19 can have only one symptom, but may return to school according to school illness policy if not tested.

<sup>2</sup> Exposure questions: **In the past 14 days** 1. Had close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 non-consecutive minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19; OR history of cruise ship travel.

<sup>3</sup>Close contact with a COVID-19 case is defined as being within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes (does not have to be consecutive minutes), with or without a face covering. The risk of spread is lowest when both the contagious individual and the potential close contacts keep their nose and mouth covered, but it is not eliminated.



*Therefore, high levels of face covering use help minimize the number of COVID-19 cases in a school, but may not reduce the number of people who are considered close contacts for quarantine, if a case is identified. Public health may deviate from standard close contact definitions. Such exceptions would be unique, and applied when exposure circumstances are unusual or the exposed population is highly susceptible.*

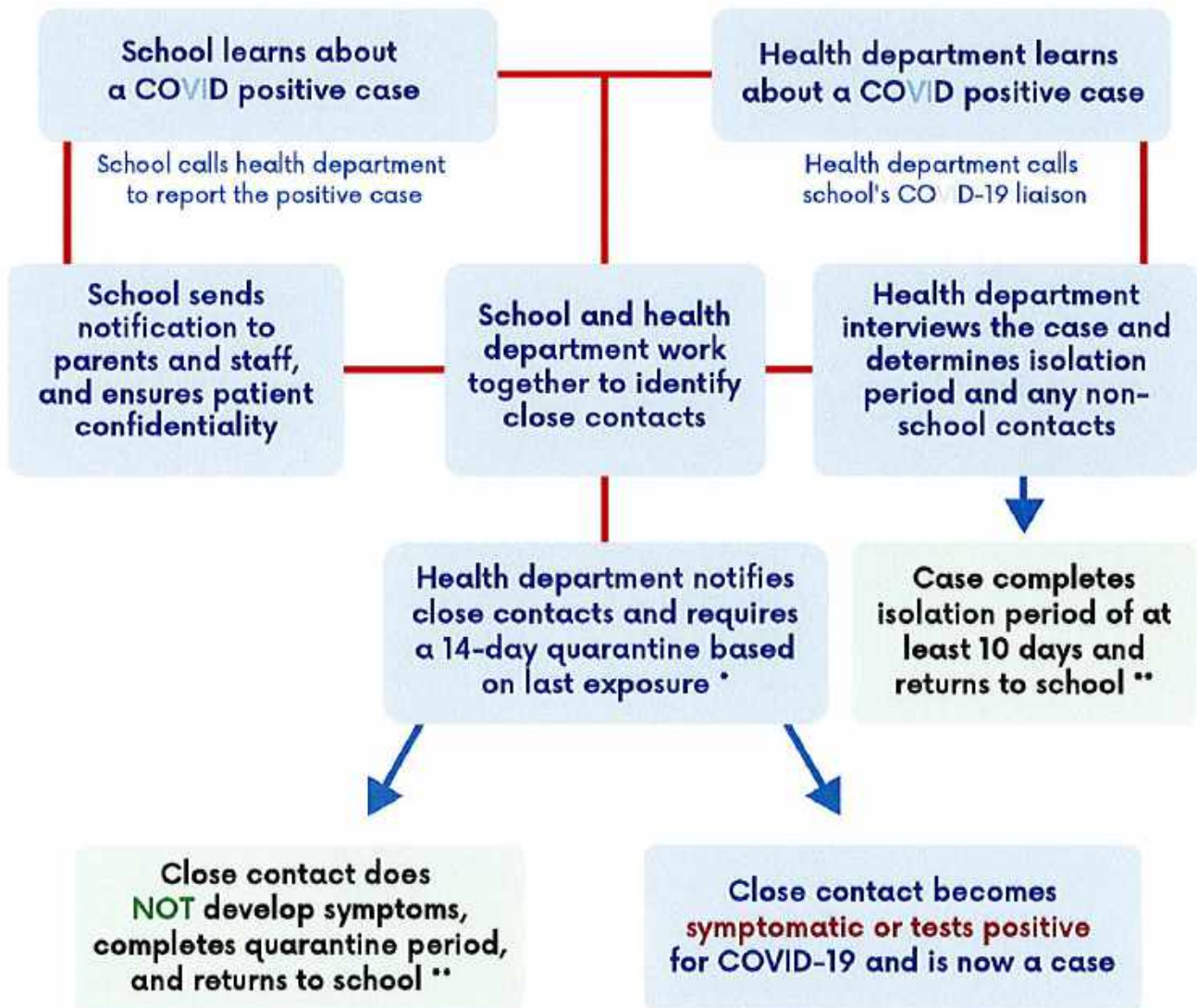
*\*Many schools base their illness policy on the MDHHS [Managing Communicable Diseases in Schools](#) guidebook.*

## COVID-19 FACT SHEET FOR SCHOOL AND PARENT USE

The following 2-page infographic fact sheet offers a broad overview of the health department's process regarding COVID-19 case and contact tracing specific to students and staff members of schools and is intended for use by general school staff and parents/guardians. The flowchart and table in the previous section on pages 7-8, while providing some of the same information in the infographic fact sheet, give more detail about the local health department's process and strongly recommended guidance for schools regarding symptomatic COVID-19 cases and the close contacts that may also be students or staff members of an area school.

# COVID-19 PREVENTION & RESPONSE

## What happens when someone at school gets COVID-19?



\*If someone is placed in quarantine, they may decide to get a COVID-19 test, but a negative result will NOT shorten the length of the quarantine period.

\*\*The health department will issue an official letter or other documentation to release a person from isolation or quarantine. Schools must use this letter to determine when to allow return to school.





**ISOLATION** is for people who are already sick. Isolation separates and restricts sick people so they can't spread the disease to healthy people.

**QUARANTINE** is for people who are not sick but may have been exposed. Quarantined people may or may not become sick.

## Who must stay home or will be sent home?



Anyone in isolation or quarantine for COVID-19.



Anyone who has symptoms of COVID-19 that are new or not typical for the student/staff member.

Any ONE of these:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- Loss of taste or smell

Any TWO of these\*:

- Fever of  $\geq 100.4$  or feeling feverish
- Chills
- Muscle aches
- Sore throat
- Diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain
- Congestion or runny nose
- Headache
- Fatigue

\* If only one of the symptoms in group 2, follow school illness policy for return to school. People with COVID-19 can have no or almost no symptoms. If you have even ONE of these symptoms that is not typical for you, please seek testing.



Anyone who is considered a close contact that had a potential exposure within the last 14 days.

- A person who was within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes to a confirmed COVID-19 case or someone under quarantine for possible exposure.
- Public health authorities may determine that distances beyond 6 feet or less than 15 minutes can still result in high-risk exposures based on other considerations and circumstances in each particular case.
- A person who had cruise ship travel within last 14 days.

If excluded, you may not return to school or any school activity until authorized by public health. For a medical evaluation and/or COVID-19 testing, contact your health care provider or call 2-1-1 for resources.

## How long do they have to stay home and out of school?



**At least 10 days** from the first day symptoms started and until no fever (without the use of fever-reducing medications) and other symptoms have improved for at least 24 hours or in accordance to the school's illness policy.



Symptomatic AND tests positive for COVID-19 (or results are pending).  
If someone is awaiting test results, they must stay home until the results are in.



Symptomatic and no test and no alternative diagnosis BUT had exposure.



Symptomatic and no test and no alternative diagnosis and had NO known exposure.



**At least 24 hours** until no fever (without the use of fever-reducing medications) and other symptoms have improved for at least 24 hours or in accordance to the school's illness policy.



Symptomatic AND tests negative for COVID-19 and had NO known exposure.



Symptomatic AND has an alternative diagnosis and had NO known exposure.



**At least 14 days** based on last exposure.



If NO symptoms BUT had exposure.



A person with COVID-19 is considered contagious starting 2 days (48 hours) before they started having symptoms. If a person never had symptoms, they are considered contagious starting 2 days (48 hours) before their COVID-19 test was performed.



Classmates—and other close contacts of a symptomatic but undiagnosed person or of a quarantined person—may continue to attend school and should monitor for symptoms. They do not need to be excluded from school.