Paula Tibbitts

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Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2020 12:29 PM
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Subject: COVID-19 School Protocols and FAQs
Attachments: NYSDOH_PreKGr12_Toolkit_093020-2.pdf

Dear Albany County School Nurses,

This morning, the New York State Department of Health released their much anticipated K-12 toolkit which is attached. Please note this toolkit includes **UPDATED GUIDANCE** on protocols and algorithms for exclusion from and return to school. Please note that this guidance should be reviewed and adapted immediately, and supersedes previous guidance provided by this department.

Important changes include information on testing and alternate diagnoses.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and dedication to public health and the safety of your students and staff.

Kindest regards,

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Albany County Department of Health
is nationally accredited and meets rigorous public health standards set forth to best meet the needs of our community.

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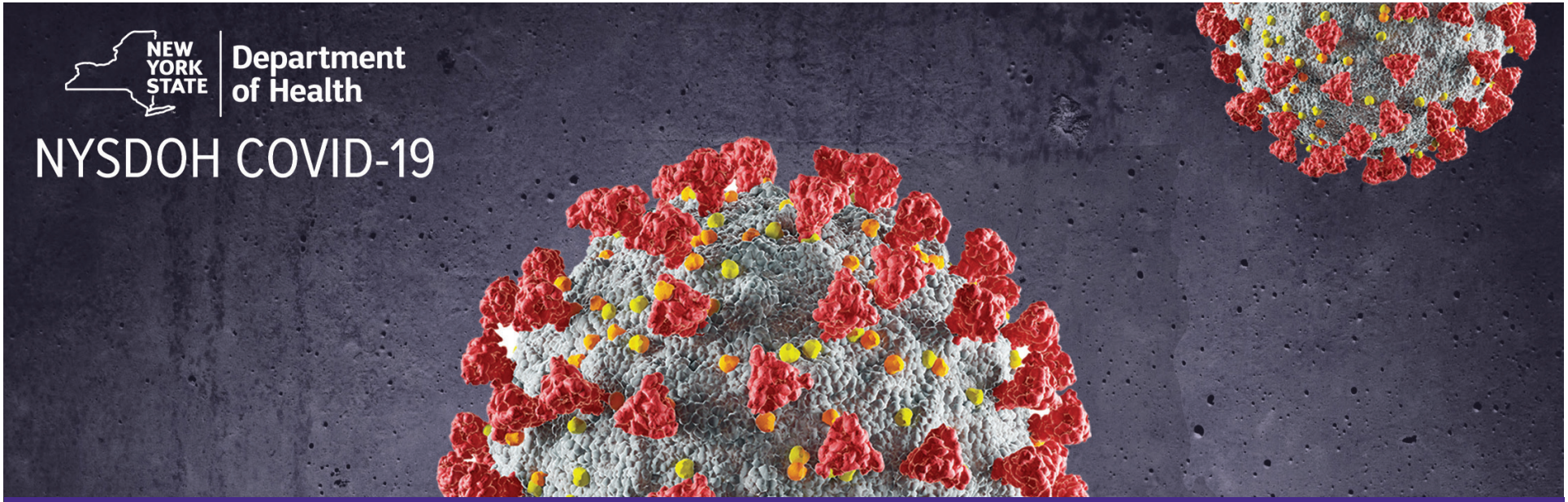


Pre-K to Gr 12 COVID-19 Toolkit

NYSDOH COVID-19 In-Person Decision Making Flowchart for Student Attendance

Can My Child Go To School Today?

In the past 10 days, has your child been tested for the virus that causes COVID-19, also known as SARS-CoV-2?

YES → **Was the test result positive OR are you still waiting for the result?**

- **YES** → Your child **cannot** go to school today.
  They must stay in isolation (at home and away from others) until the test results are back and are **negative OR** if **positive**, the local health department has released your child from isolation.

NO → **In the last 14 days, has your child:**

- Traveled internationally to a **CDC level 2 or 3 COVID-19 related travel health notice country;** or
- Traveled to a state or territory on the **NYS Travel Advisory List;** or
- Been designated a contact of a person who tested positive for COVID-19 by a local health department?

- **YES** → Your child **cannot** go to school today.
  They must stay at home until your local health department releases your child from quarantine, at least 14 days.
  A negative diagnostic COVID-19 test does not change the 14-day quarantine requirement.

NO → **Does your child currently have (or has had in the last 10 days) one or more of these new or worsening symptoms?**

- A temperature greater than or equal to 100.0° F (37.8° C)
- Feel feverish or have chills
- Cough
- Loss of taste or smell
- Fatigue/feeling of tiredness
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath or trouble breathing
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- Muscle pain or body aches
- Headaches
- Nasal congestion/runny nose

- **YES** → Your child **cannot** go to school today.
  Your child should be assessed by their pediatric healthcare provider (HCP). Call your child's HCP before going to the office or clinic to tell them about your child's COVID-19 symptoms. If your child does not have a HCP, call your local health department.

- **NO** → **Your child CAN go to school today.**
  Make sure they wear a face covering or face mask, practice social distancing, and wash their hands!

Report absences, symptoms, and positive COVID-19 test results to your child's school.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF YOUR CHILD HAS:

- Trouble breathing or is breathing very quickly
- Prolonged fever
- Is too sick to drink fluids
- Severe abdominal pain, diarrhea or vomiting
- Change in skin color - becoming pale, patchy and/or blue
- Racing heart or chest pain
- Decreased urine output
- Lethargy, irritability, or confusion

My child has COVID-19 symptoms. When can they go back to school?

HEALTHCARE PROVIDER (HCP) EVALUATION FOR COVID-19 (can be in-person or by video/telephone as determined by HCP)

HCP Recommends COVID-19 Diagnostic Test

STAY OUT OF SCHOOL
and in isolation until test result is back

Positive Test Result

Your local health department will contact you to follow up.

Your child must remain in isolation (at home and away from others) until your local health department has released them from isolation, which is typically:

- 10 days after symptom onset; **AND**
- Child's symptoms are improving; **AND**
- Child is fever-free for at least 72 hours without use of fever reducing medicines.

While your child is in isolation, **all members of the household must quarantine at home until released by the local health department,** typically 14 days.

Note: A repeat negative COVID-19 test is not required for return to school.

Negative Test Result

If your child's symptoms are improving **AND** they are fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medicines, your child **may return to school** with:

- A note from HCP indicating the test was negative **OR**
- Provide a copy of the negative test result.

OR

HCP Gives Alternate Diagnosis

If your child's HCP provides a diagnosis of a known chronic condition with unchanged symptoms, or a confirmed acute illness (examples: laboratory-confirmed influenza, strep-throat) **AND** COVID-19 is not suspected, then a note signed by their **HCP explaining the alternate diagnosis is required** before your child will be allowed to return to school. They may return to school according to the usual guidelines for that diagnosis.

Note: a signed HCP note documenting unconfirmed acute illnesses, such as viral upper respiratory illness (URI) or viral gastroenteritis, will not suffice.

COVID-19 Diagnostic Test Recommended but Not Done and No Alternate Diagnosis

Child is Not Evaluated by HCP

Your child must remain in isolation at home and is not able to go back to school until your local health department has released them from isolation, which is typically:

- At least 10 days have passed since date of first symptoms; **AND**
- Child's symptoms are improving; **AND**
- Child is fever-free for at least 72 hours without use of fever reducing medicines.

COVID-19 diagnostic testing includes molecular (e.g., PCR) or antigen testing for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Diagnostic testing may be performed with a nasopharyngeal swab, nasal swab, or saliva sample, as ordered by the health care provider and per laboratory specifications. At times, a negative antigen test will need to be followed up with a confirmatory molecular test. Serology (antibody testing) cannot be used to rule in or out acute COVID-19.

NYSDOH COVID-19 In-Person Decision Making Flowsheet for Staff To Go To Work

Can I Go to Work at the School Today?

In the past 10 days, have you been tested for the virus that causes COVID-19, also known as SARS-CoV-2?

YES

Was the test result positive OR are you still waiting for the result?

YES

You **cannot** go to work at the school today and must stay in isolation (at home and away from others) until your test results are back and are **negative** **OR** if **positive**, the local health department has released you from isolation.

NO

In the last 14 days, have you:

- Traveled internationally to a **CDC level 2 or 3 COVID-19 related travel health notice country;** or
- Traveled to a state or territory on the **NYS Travel Advisory List;** or
- Been designated a contact of a person who tested positive for COVID-19 by a local health department?

YES

You **cannot** go to work at the school today.

If you have had any of these exposures, you must stay at home until your local health department releases you from quarantine, at least 14 days from the date of your last exposure. A negative diagnostic COVID-19 test does not change the 14-day quarantine requirement.

School staff are not essential workers and **must** quarantine.

NO

Do you currently have (or have had in the last 10 days) one or more of these new or worsening symptoms?

- A temperature greater than or equal to 100.0° F (37.8° C)
- Feel feverish or have chills
- Cough
- Loss of taste or smell
- Fatigue/feeling of tiredness
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath or trouble breathing
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- Muscle pain or body aches
- Headaches
- Nasal congestion/runny nose

YES

You **cannot** go to work at the school today.

You should be assessed by your health care provider (HCP). Call your HCP before going to any in-person visits to tell them about your COVID-19 symptoms. If you do not have a health care provider, call your local health department.

NO

You can go to work at the school today!

Make sure you wear a face covering or face mask, practice social distancing, and wash your hands frequently.

Report absences, symptoms, and positive COVID-19 test results to your school.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF YOU HAVE:

- Trouble breathing or are breathing very quickly
- Are too sick to drink fluids
- Severe abdominal pain, diarrhea or vomiting
- Change in skin color - becoming pale, patchy and/or blue
- Racing heart or chest pain
- Decreased urine output
- Lethargy, irritability, or confusion

I have COVID-19 symptoms. When can I go back to work at the school?

HEALTHCARE PROVIDER (HCP) EVALUATION FOR COVID-19 (can be in-person or by video/telephone as determined by HCP)

HCP Recommends COVID-19 Diagnostic Test

STAY OUT OF SCHOOL
and in isolation until test result is back

Positive Test Result

Your local health department will contact you to follow up.

You must remain in isolation (at home and away from others) until your local health department has released you from isolation, which is typically:

- 10 days after symptom onset; **AND**
- Your symptoms are improving; **AND**
- You are fever-free for at least 72 hours without use of fever reducing medicines.

While you are in isolation, **all members of the household must quarantine at home until released by the local health department,** typically 14 days.

Note: A repeat negative COVID-19 test is not required for return to school.

Negative Test Result

If your symptoms are improving AND you are fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medicines, you **may return to school** with:

- A note from HCP indicating the test was negative **OR**
- Provide a copy of the negative test result.

OR

HCP Gives Alternate Diagnosis

If your HCP provides a diagnosis of a known chronic condition with unchanged symptoms, or a confirmed acute illness (examples: laboratory-confirmed influenza, strep-throat) **AND** COVID-19 is not suspected, then a note signed by your **HCP explaining the alternate diagnosis is required** before you will be allowed to return to school. You may return to school according to the usual guidelines for that diagnosis.

Note: a signed HCP note documenting unconfirmed acute illnesses, such as viral upper respiratory illness (URI) or viral gastroenteritis, will not suffice.

COVID-19 Diagnostic Test Recommended but Not Done and No Alternate Diagnosis

NOT Evaluated by HCP

You must remain in isolation at home and are not able to go back to work at the school until your local health department has released you from isolation, which is typically:

- At least 10 days have passed since date of first symptoms; **AND**
- Your symptoms are improving; **AND**
- You are fever-free for at least 72 hours without use of fever reducing medicines.

Note: You may not qualify for Paid Sick Leave benefits due to COVID-19 without a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis.

COVID-19 diagnostic testing includes molecular (e.g., PCR) or antigen testing for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Diagnostic testing may be performed with a nasopharyngeal swab, nasal swab, or saliva sample, as ordered by the health care provider and per laboratory specifications. At times, a negative antigen test will need to be followed up with a confirmatory molecular test. Serology (antibody testing) cannot be used to rule in or out acute COVID-19.

NYS DOH COVID-19 Guide for School Administrators and Schools Nurses

COVID-19 Screening Flowsheet for Students and Staff

In the past 10 days, has the student or staff been tested for the virus that causes COVID-19, also known as SARS-CoV-2?

YES

Was the test result positive OR are they still waiting for the result?

YES

The student or staff **cannot** go to school today.

They must stay in isolation (at home and away from others) until the test results are back and are **negative OR** if **positive**, the local health department has released the individual from isolation.

NO

In the last 14 days, has the student or staff:

- Traveled internationally to a **CDC level 2 or 3 COVID-19 related travel health notice country;** or
- Traveled to a state or territory on the **NYS Travel Advisory List;** or
- Been designated a contact of a person who tested positive for COVID-19 by a local health department?

YES

Students or staff **cannot** go to school today.

They must stay at home until the local health department releases the individual from quarantine (at least 14 days from the date of their return from travel or last exposure). A negative diagnostic COVID-19 test does not change the 14-day quarantine requirement.

School staff are not essential workers and **must** quarantine.

NO

Does the student or staff currently have (or has had in the last 10 days) one or more of these new or worsening symptoms?

- A temperature greater than or equal to 100.0° F (37.8° C)
- Feel feverish or have chills
- Cough
- Loss of taste or smell
- Fatigue/feeling of tiredness
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath or trouble breathing
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- Muscle pain or body aches
- Headaches
- Nasal congestion/runny nose

YES

The student or staff **cannot** go to school today.

They should be assessed by their health care provider (HCP). If they do not have an HCP, they should call their local health department. If they do not receive COVID-19 testing, or are not cleared to return to school by their HCP, then they are required to be isolated at home. See next page for more information.

NO

The student or staff CAN go to school today!

Make sure they wear a face covering or face mask, practice social distancing, and wash their hands frequently.

Communicate to your students and staff that they must report absences, symptoms, and positive COVID-19 test results to your school.

CALL 911 IF A STUDENT OR STAFF HAS:

- Trouble breathing or is breathing very quickly
- Severe abdominal pain, diarrhea or vomiting
- Change in skin color - becoming pale, patchy and/or blue
- Racing heart or chest pain
- Lethargy, irritability, or confusion

COVID-19 Flowsheet for Student or Staff with COVID-19 Symptoms

Student/staff has symptoms consistent with COVID-19:

- Student/staff member should keep face mask on.
- Staff members should be sent home immediately.
- Students awaiting transport home by the parent/guardian must be isolated in a room or area separate from others, with a supervising adult present using appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
- School administration and the parent/guardian should be notified.
- Provide instructions that the individual must be seen by an HCP for evaluation and have COVID-19 testing (unless determined not necessary by HCP). If they do not have an HCP they should call their local health department.
- Schools should provide a list of local COVID-19 testing locations.
- Clean and disinfect area where the student/staff member was located.

HEALTHCARE PROVIDER (HCP) EVALUATION FOR COVID-19 (can be in-person or by video/telephone as determined by HCP)

HCP Recommends COVID-19 Test

STAY OUT OF SCHOOL
and in isolation until test result is back

Positive Test Result

The local health department will contact you to follow up.

The ill person must remain in isolation (at home and away from others) until the local health department has released them from isolation, which is typically:

- 10 days after symptom onset; **AND**
- Child/staff's symptoms are improving; **AND**
- Child/staff is fever-free for at least 72 hours without use of fever reducing medicines.

While the ill person is in isolation, **all members of the household must quarantine at home until released by the local health department,** typically 14 days.

Note: A repeat negative COVID-19 test is not required for return to school.

Negative Test Result

If symptoms are improving **AND** they are fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medicines, student/staff **may return to school** with:

- A note from HCP indicating the test was negative **OR**
- Provide a copy of the negative test result.

OR

HCP Gives Alternate Diagnosis

If the HCP provides a diagnosis of a known chronic condition with unchanged symptoms, or a confirmed acute illness (examples: laboratory-confirmed influenza, strep-throat) AND COVID-19 is not suspected then a note signed by their **HCP explaining the alternate diagnosis is required** before the student/staff will be allowed to return to school. They may return to school according to the usual guidelines for that diagnosis.

Note: a signed HCP note documenting unconfirmed acute illnesses, such as viral upper respiratory illness (URI) or viral gastroenteritis, will not suffice.

COVID-19 Diagnostic Test Recommended but Not Done and No Alternate Diagnosis

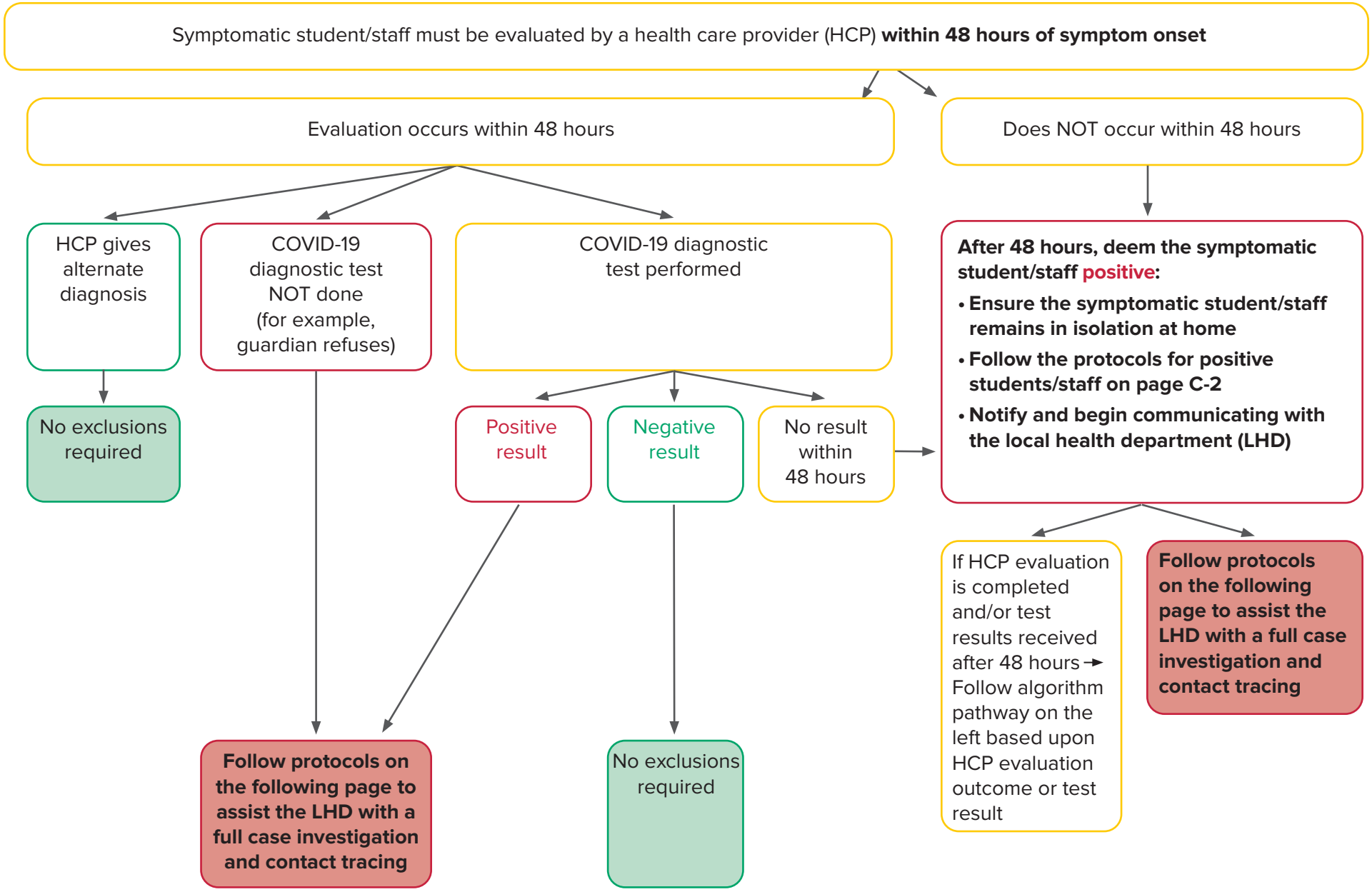
Student/Staff is NOT Evaluated by HCP

The person must remain in isolation at home and is not able to go back to school until the local health department has released them from isolation, which is typically:

- At least 10 days have passed since the day symptoms started; **AND**
- Symptoms are improving; **AND**
- They are fever-free for at least 72 hours without use of fever reducing medications.

COVID-19 diagnostic testing includes molecular (e.g., PCR) or antigen testing for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Diagnostic testing may be performed with a nasopharyngeal swab, nasal swab, or saliva sample, as ordered by the health care provider and per laboratory specifications. If there is a high suspicion of COVID-19 based on symptoms or circumstances, the HCP or public health should consider following up a negative antigen test with a molecular test which is more sensitive, particularly when there are important clinical or public health implications. Serology (antibody testing) cannot be used to rule in or out acute COVID-19.

COVID-19 exclusion protocol for contacts of symptomatic students and staff



COVID-19 School and Local Health Department Coordination for Contact Tracing

Notify the local health department (LHD):

- **Immediately upon learning of a positive case**
- **48 hours after symptom onset in a staff member or student if no HCP evaluation or test result has been received.** The LHD will collaborate with the school for contact tracing and to identify contacts.

Provide the LHD with contact information of school personnel who will assist in the LHD's contact investigation. Include the names and phone numbers of at least two points of contact, as appropriate, such as:

- School Principal
- Administrative Support Person
- Principal Designee

THEN

Move forward with preestablished communication plan in consultation with LHD (e.g., notifying the school community of confirmed case(s), as appropriate).

Begin to identify contacts of the case to provide to the LHD.

Provide the LHD with a list of people who are possible contacts of the case including:

- Contact's full name
- Parent(s)/Guardian(s) full name(s)
- Phone number(s)
- Home address
- Nature of contact (e.g., persons in same classroom, bus, etc.)
- Student, teacher, or type of staff member

Contacts will include students/staff who had exposure to the individual suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 beginning two days before their symptom onset (or if the case was asymptomatic, two days before the date they were tested) until the case is excluded from the school and in isolation. Schools and LHDs should work together to ensure any before, after, or other daycare; transportation; extracurricular; and other non-school setting contacts are identified and notified of their exposure risk.

THEN

The LHD will determine which students/staff should be quarantined and excluded from school in addition to any other close contacts, such as social or household contacts. Contacts will be quarantined and excluded from school for 14 days from the date of last exposure to the case, advised to monitor for symptoms, and recommended to get a diagnostic COVID-19 test at least 3 days after their last date of exposure. The local health department will initiate isolation and quarantine orders.

When to welcome back affected students/staff:

The LHD will determine when students and staff are released from isolation or quarantine and can return to school.
The LHD should communicate to the school a release from isolation or quarantine in order for the student/staff to be welcomed back to the school.