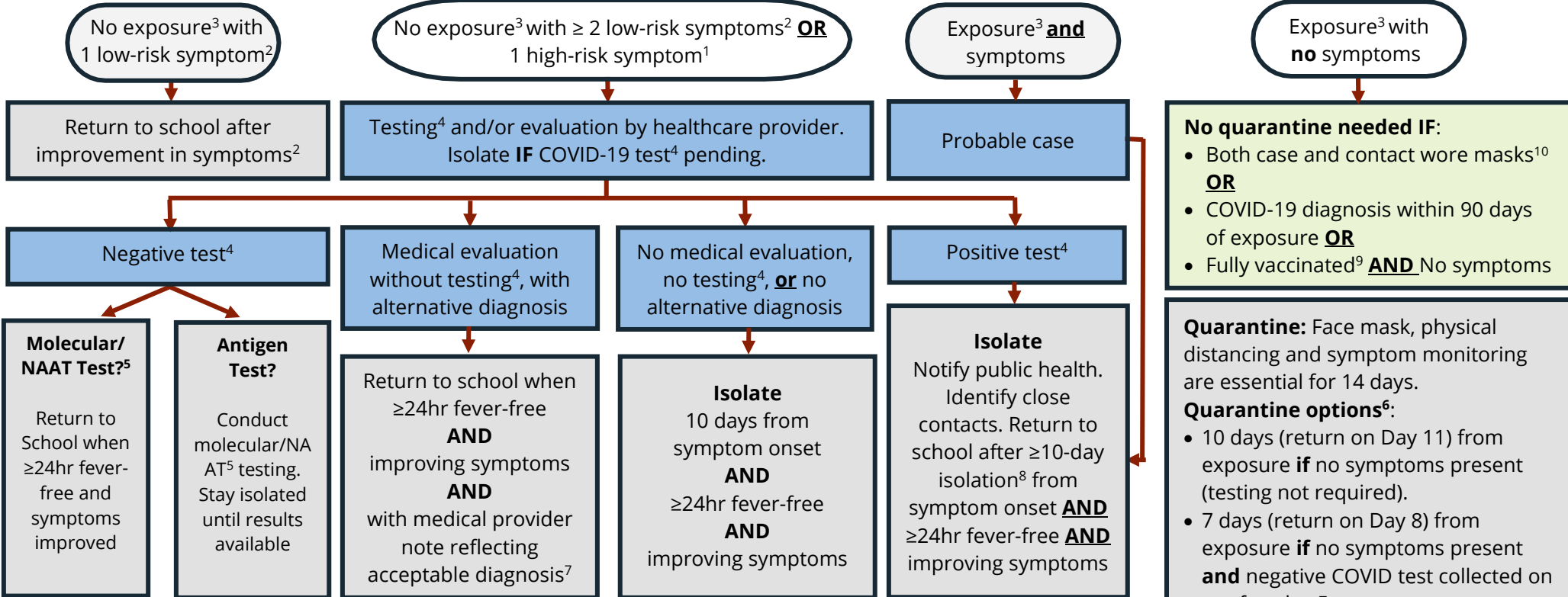


Public Health COVID-19 Return to School Decision Support Algorithm
 Symptoms of COVID-19 may include: **new cough, difficulty breathing, loss of taste or smell, fever (>100.4°F)¹, chills, congestion/runny nose, sore throat, headache, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, muscle pain, fatigue²**



Quarantine: Face mask, physical distancing and symptom monitoring are essential for 14 days.
Quarantine options⁶:

- 10 days (return on Day 11) from exposure **if** no symptoms present (testing not required).
- 7 days (return on Day 8) from exposure **if** no symptoms present **and** negative COVID test collected on or after day 5.

If symptoms develop:

- Isolate and obtain test⁴.

8/26/21 Changes:

- 1) Added quarantine exception for exposed students if both the case and the contact wore well-fitting masks throughout the exposure.
- 2) Specified that the exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in an indoor classroom setting.

8/11/21 Changes:

- 1) Clarified that any molecular/NAAT test can be used for confirmation, not just PCR tests.
- 2) Specified that testing for shortened quarantine can be on or after Day 5.

1 High risk symptoms

2 Low risk symptoms not due to chronic conditions such as allergies, migraines, etc.

3 Exposure defined as within 6 feet of a case for cumulative total of ≥15 minutes over 24-hr period.

4 Test refers to diagnostic tests (such as PCR or antigen). Antibody tests are not approved for return to school.

5 Molecular/NAAT tests include PCR tests and isothermal NAAT tests.

6 A small risk of transmission still exists until 14 days past exposure. Mask use, physical distancing and symptom monitoring is important through day 14.

7 Examples of acceptable diagnoses would include urinary tract infection, strep throat confirmed by positive strep test, rash from poison ivy, etc. Diagnoses of respiratory and viral conditions such as upper respiratory tract infection (URI), pneumonia, pharyngitis without positive strep test, viral illness, etc. **DO NOT** exclude the diagnosis of COVID-19 and **DO NOT JUSTIFY RETURN TO SCHOOL.**

8 Consult CDC guidance if severely ill or immunocompromised.

9 Someone is considered fully vaccinated if they are ≥2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series or ≥2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine.

10 Exposed individuals are not required to quarantine if both they and the case wore well-fitting masks throughout the exposure. The exposed individual must continue to wear a mask following exposure. Testing is recommended on day 5 or later. Isolate immediately if symptoms develop or a positive test result is received.