

COVID-19 Decision Trees for K-12 Schools

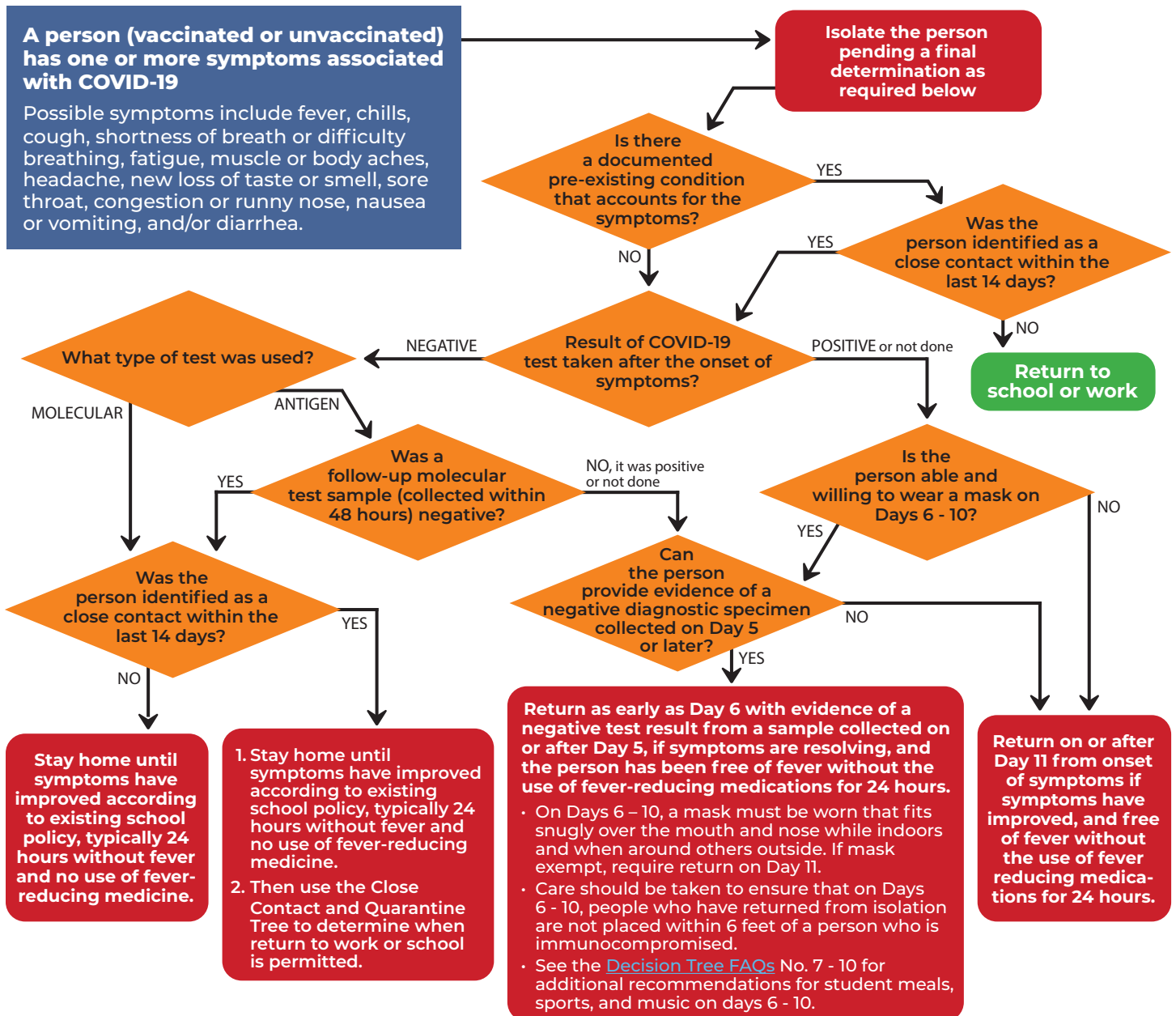
Jan. 19, 2022
10 a.m.

Today's updates: 'Appropriate Test Types' (page 4 table) language altered to make clear that antigen testing is recommended for people whose symptoms are resolving to determine if they can return to school or work on Day 6 - 10. Visit the [Decision Tree webpage](#) to view previous changes.

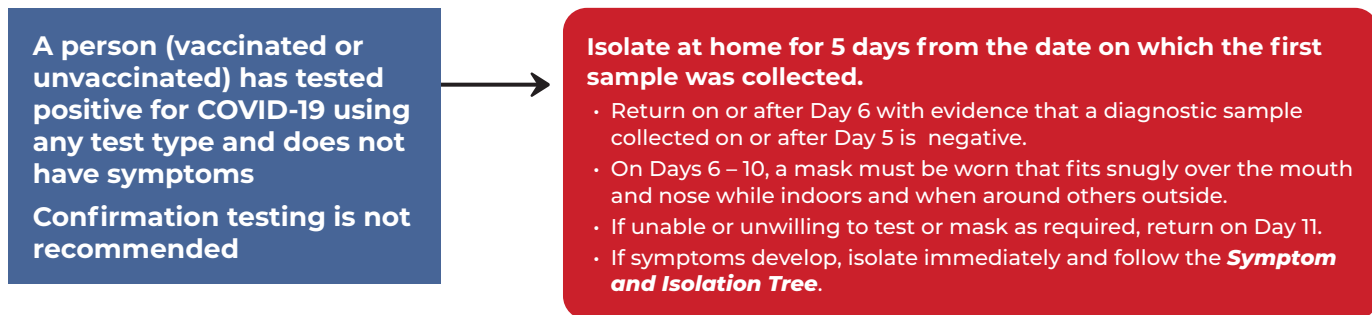
If the person...

- Has **symptoms**, use the **Symptom and Isolation Tree**
- Has **tested positive** and **does not have symptoms**, use the **Asymptomatic Positive Tree**
- Is identified as a **close contact** and **does not have symptoms**, use the **Close Contact and Quarantine Trees**

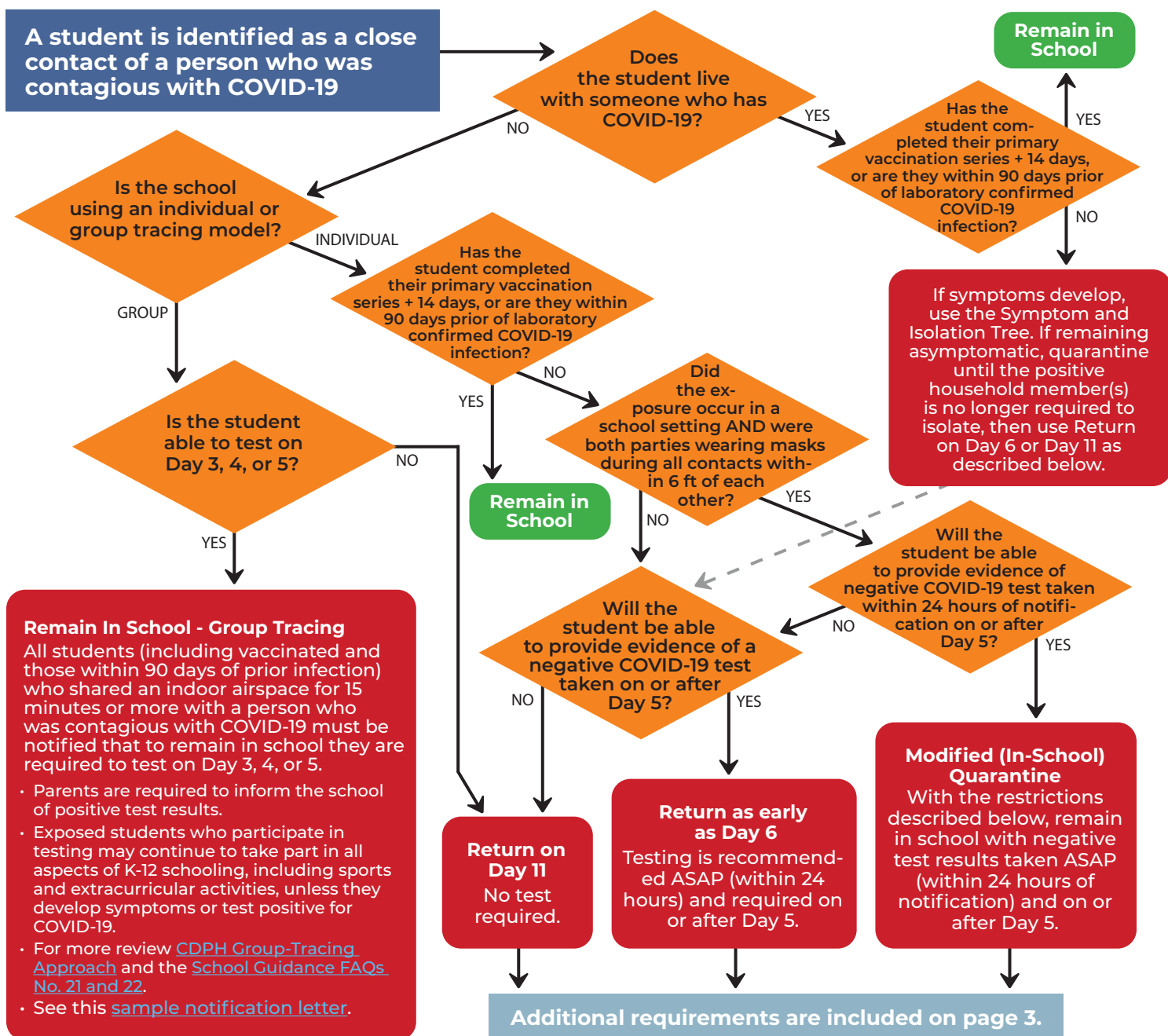
Symptom and Isolation Tree for Students and K-12 Workers



Asymptomatic Positive Tree for Students and K-12 Workers



Close Contact and Quarantine Tree for Students



If the student cannot or will not follow the requirements listed below, quarantine for 10 days (return Day 11) is required.

Quarantine Requirements

- **Modified (in-school) Quarantine:** This option may only be used by student close contacts exposed in a setting supervised by school staff, when the COVID-19-positive person and student close contact were both wearing masks during all contacts with each other within 6 feet. To remain in school the student must test within 24 hours of notification, and on or after day 5. Rapid result (antigen) testing is recommended. The student may continue to participate in expanded learning or child care programs offered on the school campus, but must quarantine at home from all other before-school, after-school, and weekend activities. Activities may resume on or after Day 6 with evidence of a negative test sample collected on or after Day 5. (See FAQ answer No. 6).
- **Return on Day 6:** It is recommended that the student close contact test ASAP. Return as early as Day 6 is authorized with evidence provided prior to return that a diagnostic specimen collected on or after Day 5 is negative. For household exposures, see the note below.
- **Return on Day 11:** Allows a student to return on Day 11. Testing is recommended on Day 5, 6, or 7, but not required. For household exposures, see the note below.
- **Household Exposures:** For return on Day 6 or Day 11, Day 1 of quarantine begins on the day that the COVID-positive household member is no longer required to isolate. See questions 3 and 4 of the [Decision Tree FAQs](#) for more information and requirements.
- **If symptoms develop or a positive test result occurs** during quarantine, require isolation at home and consult the Symptom and Isolation or Asymptomatic Positive tree.

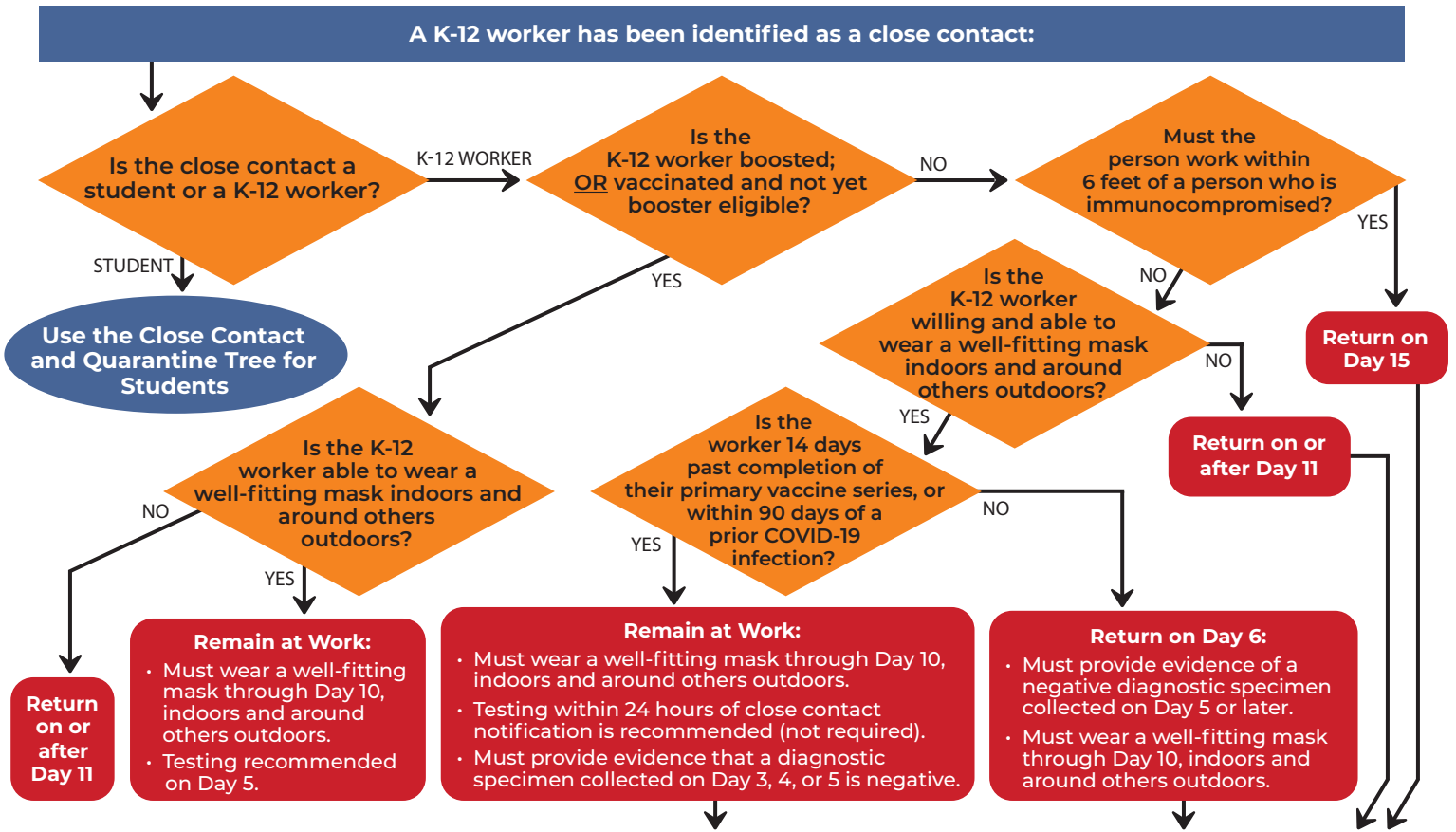
Additional Requirements for Return Before Day 11

- Students must agree to self-monitor for symptoms, wear a face covering over their nose and mouth as required, use good hand hygiene practices, and use good cough and sneeze etiquette.
- Accommodations (like changes in the close contact's work, room, seat, or bus assignments) should be made to ensure that close contacts returning before Day 11 will not be near others who are immunocompromised (i.e, solid organ or bone marrow transplant, chemotherapy, similarly reduced ability to fight infections). If these accommodations cannot be made the close contact must quarantine for 10 days.

Other Notes on Quarantine

- The number of days required for quarantine is counted from the day after the person's last close contact with a person who is contagious with COVID-19. Please see FAQ No. 1 under "isolation" for information on how long people are considered to be contagious.

Close Contact and Quarantine Tree for K-12 Workers



Household Exposures: If the person lives with a COVID-positive household member, quarantine is required until the positive household member(s) is no longer required to isolate. (Day 1 is counted from this date.) Then use the appropriate option for return from quarantine. If symptoms develop, use the **Symptom and Isolation Tree**. See the [Decision Tree FAQs](#) answers No. 3 and 4 for additional information and requirements.

Test Types By Situation

Situation	Appropriate Test Types
Person with symptoms (For initial testing in response to symptoms.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Antigen testing is acceptable in response to an onset of symptoms, but if the person with symptoms receives a negative result from an antigen test, they must remain in isolation pending the outcome of a confirmatory PCR test (or other NAAT) administered within 48 hours of symptom onset. If the confirmatory test is also negative the person may return to school or work immediately. PCR or other NAAT
Return from isolation before Day 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Antigen testing is recommended for people whose symptoms are resolving to determine if they can return to school or work on Day 6 - 10. Antigen tests are less likely to detect virus beyond a person's contagious period. PCR or other NAAT are acceptable.
Return from quarantine before Day 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Antigen PCR or other NAAT
Modified quarantine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Antigen is recommended because it returns a result quickly. PCR or other NAAT is acceptable.
Required screenings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Antigen is preferred because it returns a quick result, however, if a person without symptoms is antigen positive, the person should isolate while PCR (or other NAAT test) confirmation is obtained. PCR or other NAAT

At-Home Testing

STUDENTS: Schools may accept the results of at-home testing for the same uses for which antigen tests are approved. Schools are encouraged to use a means described in the [Over-The-Counter Tests Guidance](#) to verify the results on tests administered at home. See the "What are best practices for verification of self-test results?" section for specific recommendations.

EMPLOYEES: Per Cal/OSHA, an employer may only accept the results of an at-home test when the administration is observed by the employer or a telehealth proctor.

STUDENTS and EMPLOYEES: When used for a person who has symptoms, the County of San Diego requires that a negative antigen test be confirmed by a follow-up PCR or other NAAT, and that the person isolate pending the result of that test.