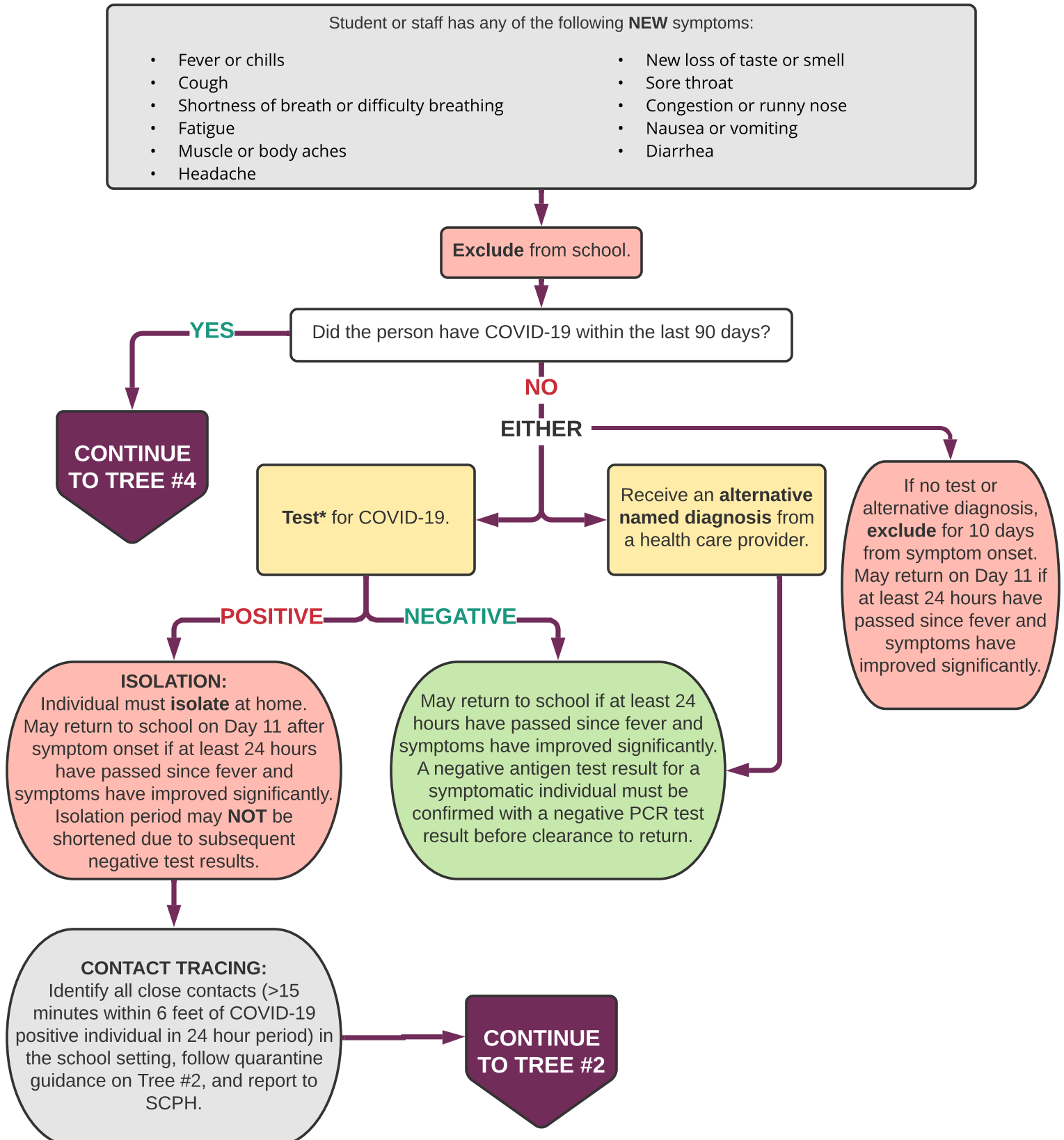# COVID-19 Symptom & Quarantine Decision Forest for K-12 Schools

The Decision Forest is based on guidance from the California Department of Public Health and local recommendations from Sacramento County Public Health. It is updated regularly to align with evolving guidance. Schools should ensure they are using the latest version and discard all previous versions. The Decision Forest provides general guidance for common scenarios, but cannot account for every possible situation. Schools requiring technical assistance can contact the SCPH Schools Team for guidance at **SCPHschools@saccounty.net**.
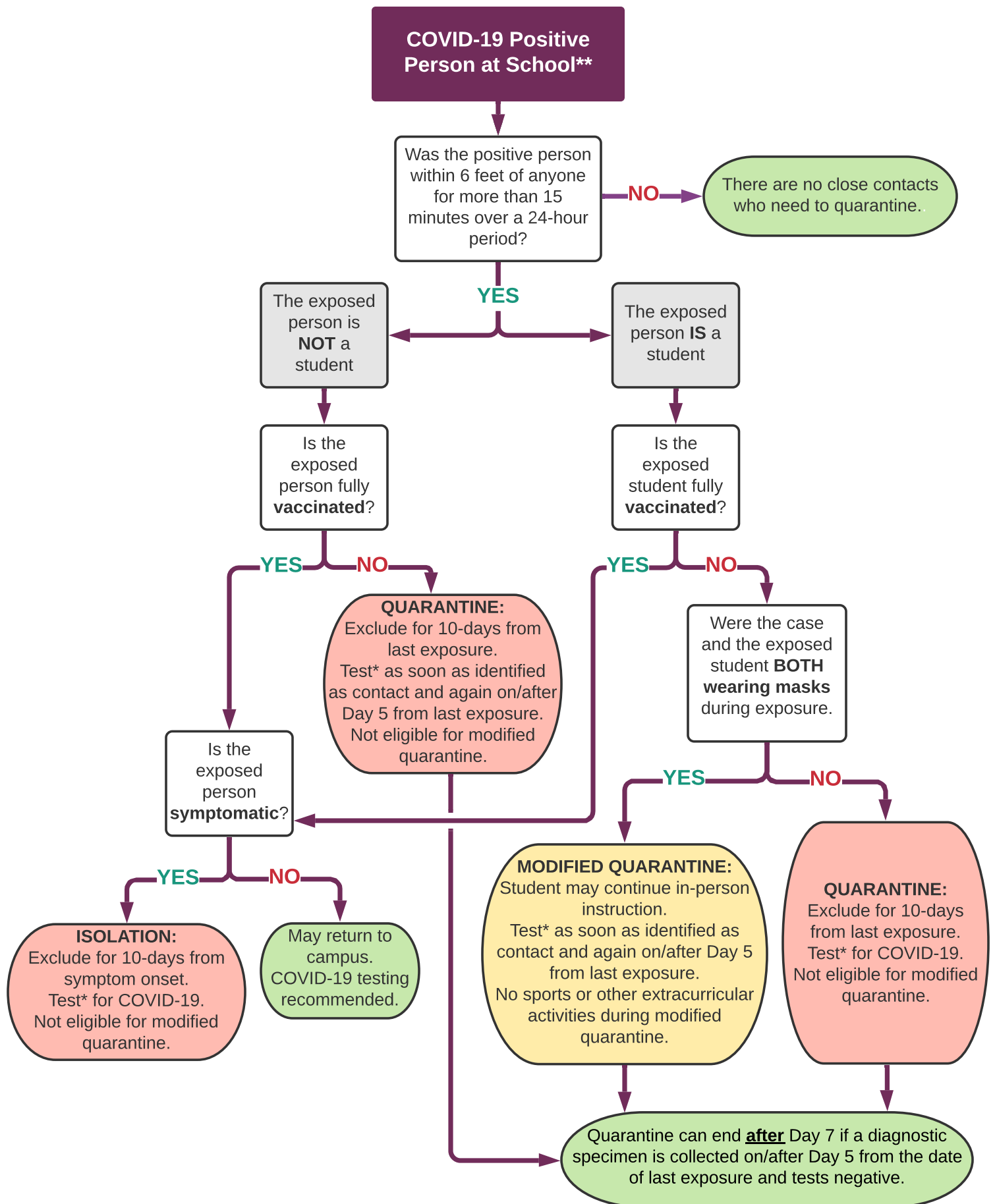
TREE #1: STUDENT OR STAFF WITH SYMPTOMS

Student or staff has any of the following **NEW** symptoms:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Exclude from school.

Did the person have COVID-19 within the last 90 days?

YES → **CONTINUE TO TREE #4**

NO

EITHER

Test* for COVID-19.

Receive an **alternative named diagnosis** from a health care provider.

If no test or alternative diagnosis, **exclude** for 10 days from symptom onset. May return on Day 11 if at least 24 hours have passed since fever and symptoms have improved significantly.

POSITIVE

ISOLATION:
Individual must **isolate** at home. May return to school on Day 11 after symptom onset if at least 24 hours have passed since fever and symptoms have improved significantly. Isolation period may **NOT** be shortened due to subsequent negative test results.

NEGATIVE

May return to school if at least 24 hours have passed since fever and symptoms have improved significantly. A negative antigen test result for a symptomatic individual must be confirmed with a negative PCR test result before clearance to return.

CONTACT TRACING:
Identify all close contacts (>15 minutes within 6 feet of COVID-19 positive individual in 24 hour period) in the school setting, follow quarantine guidance on Tree #2, and report to SCPH.

→ **CONTINUE TO TREE #2**

* PCR or rapid antigen testing are acceptable testing methods. Negative rapid antigen test on symptomatic patient must be confirmed with PCR.
** School setting in which students are supervised by school staff, including indoor or outdoor school settings and school buses.

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TREE #2: COVID-19 POSITIVE PERSON AT SCHOOL**

COVID-19 Positive Person at School**

Was the positive person within 6 feet of anyone for more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period?

NO → There are no close contacts who need to quarantine.

YES

The exposed person is **NOT** a student

The exposed person **IS** a student

Is the exposed person fully **vaccinated**?

Is the exposed student fully **vaccinated**?

YES **NO**

QUARANTINE:
Exclude for 10-days from last exposure.
Test* as soon as identified as contact and again on/after Day 5 from last exposure.
Not eligible for modified quarantine.

YES **NO**

Were the case and the exposed student **BOTH wearing masks** during exposure.

Is the exposed person **symptomatic**?

YES **NO**

YES **NO**

ISOLATION:
Exclude for 10-days from symptom onset.
Test* for COVID-19.
Not eligible for modified quarantine.

May return to campus.
COVID-19 testing recommended.

MODIFIED QUARANTINE:
Student may continue in-person instruction.
Test* as soon as identified as contact and again on/after Day 5 from last exposure.
No sports or other extracurricular activities during modified quarantine.

QUARANTINE:
Exclude for 10-days from last exposure.
Test* for COVID-19.
Not eligible for modified quarantine.

Quarantine can end **_after_** Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen is collected on/after Day 5 from the date of last exposure and tests negative.
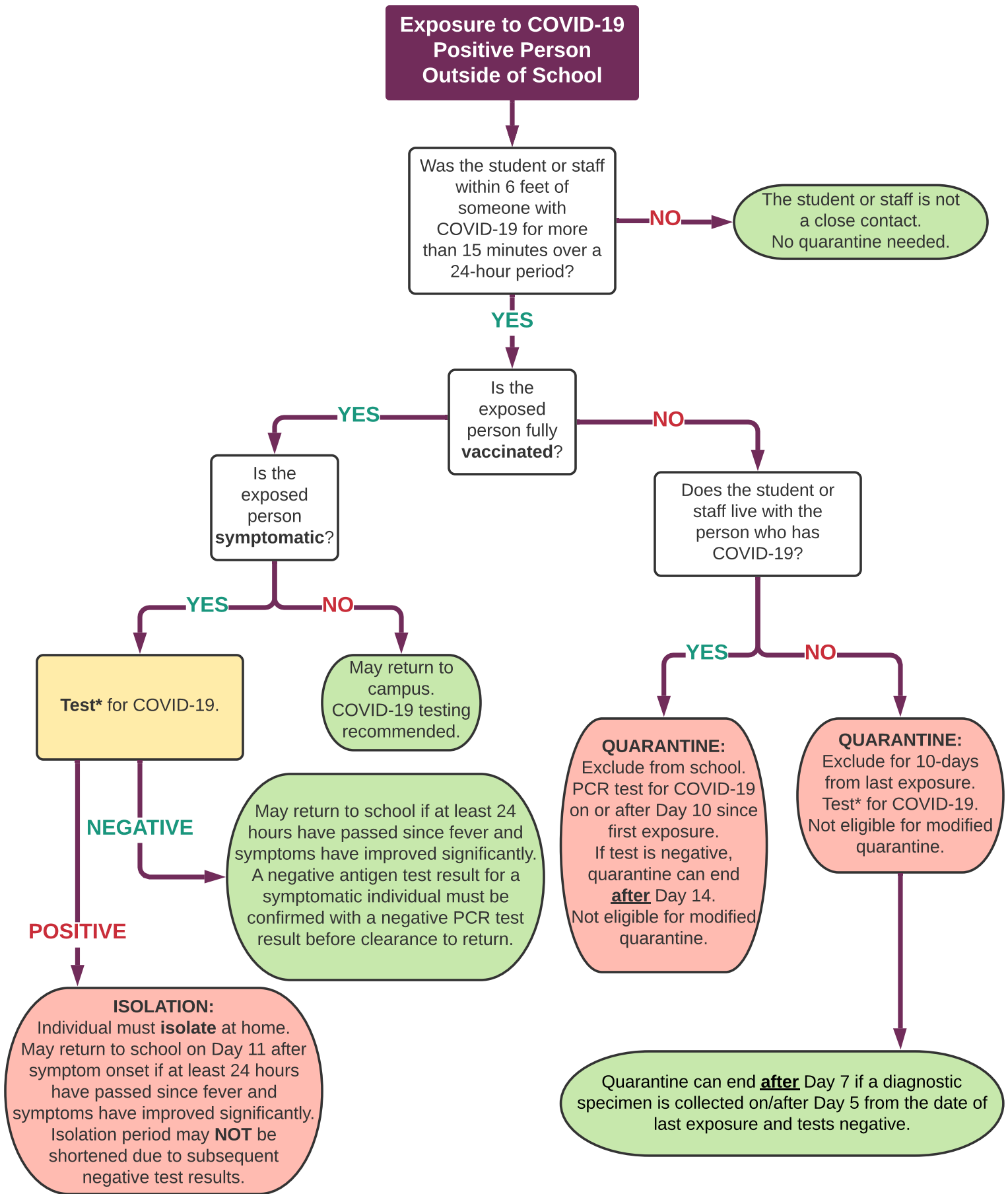
* PCR or rapid antigen testing are acceptable testing methods. Negative rapid antigen test on symptomatic patient must be confirmed with PCR.
** School setting in which students are supervised by school staff, including indoor or outdoor school settings and school buses.
Please note: Asymptomatic individuals who had COVID-19 in the past 90 days do not need to quarantine if identified as a close contact.
October 15, 2021

TREE #3: COVID-19 POSITIVE EXPOSURE OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL

Exposure to COVID-19 Positive Person Outside of School

Was the student or staff within 6 feet of someone with COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period?

NO → The student or staff is not a close contact. No quarantine needed.

YES

Is the exposed person fully **vaccinated**?

YES →

Is the exposed person **symptomatic**?

YES → **Test* for COVID-19.**

NO → May return to campus. COVID-19 testing recommended.

NEGATIVE → May return to school if at least 24 hours have passed since fever and symptoms have improved significantly. A negative antigen test result for a symptomatic individual must be confirmed with a negative PCR test result before clearance to return.

POSITIVE →

ISOLATION:
Individual must **isolate** at home.
May return to school on Day 11 after symptom onset if at least 24 hours have passed since fever and symptoms have improved significantly. Isolation period may **NOT** be shortened due to subsequent negative test results.

NO →

Does the student or staff live with the person who has COVID-19?

YES →

QUARANTINE:
Exclude from school.
PCR test for COVID-19 on or after Day 10 since first exposure.
If test is negative, quarantine can end **after** Day 14.
Not eligible for modified quarantine.

NO →

QUARANTINE:
Exclude for 10-days from last exposure.
Test* for COVID-19.
Not eligible for modified quarantine.

→ Quarantine can end **after** Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen is collected on/after Day 5 from the date of last exposure and tests negative.

* PCR or rapid antigen testing are acceptable testing methods. Negative rapid antigen test on symptomatic patient must be confirmed with PCR.
** School setting in which students are supervised by school staff, including indoor or outdoor school settings and school buses.
Please note: Asymptomatic individuals who had COVID-19 in the past 90 days do not need to quarantine if identified as a close contact.
October 15, 2021

TREE #4: PERSON WHO TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 IN PAST 90 DAYS

Student or staff who tested positive for COVID-19 **in last 90 days** has any of the following **NEW** symptoms:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache

- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Exclude from school.

Previous diagnosis was within last **30 days**.

Previous diagnosis was **31-90** days ago.

If no test or alternative diagnosis, **exclude** for 10 days from symptom onset. May return on Day 11 if at least 24 hours have passed since fever and symptoms have improved significantly.

Do **not** test for COVID-19.

EITHER

Receive an **alternative named diagnosis** from a health care provider.

Antigen Test for COVID-19. If negative, no confirmatory test needed.
Do not use PCR.

NEGATIVE

POSITIVE

May return to school if at least 24 hours have passed since fever and symptoms have improved significantly.

ISOLATION:
Individual must **isolate** at home. May return to school on Day 11 after symptom onset if at least 24 hours have passed since fever and symptoms have improved significantly. Isolation period may **NOT** be shortened due to subsequent negative test results.

CONTACT TRACING:
Identify all close contacts (>15 minutes within 6 feet of COVID-19 positive individual in 24 hour period) in the school setting, follow quarantine guidance on Tree #2, and report to SCPH.

CONTINUE TO TREE #2

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