

Return to Learn: guidance following a positive COVID-19 Symptom Screen (R3)

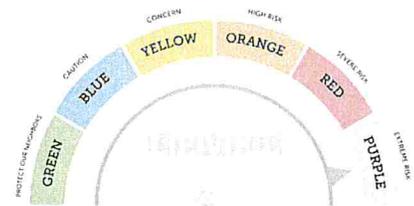


This decision tool is NOT intended for cases or close contacts of COVID-19.

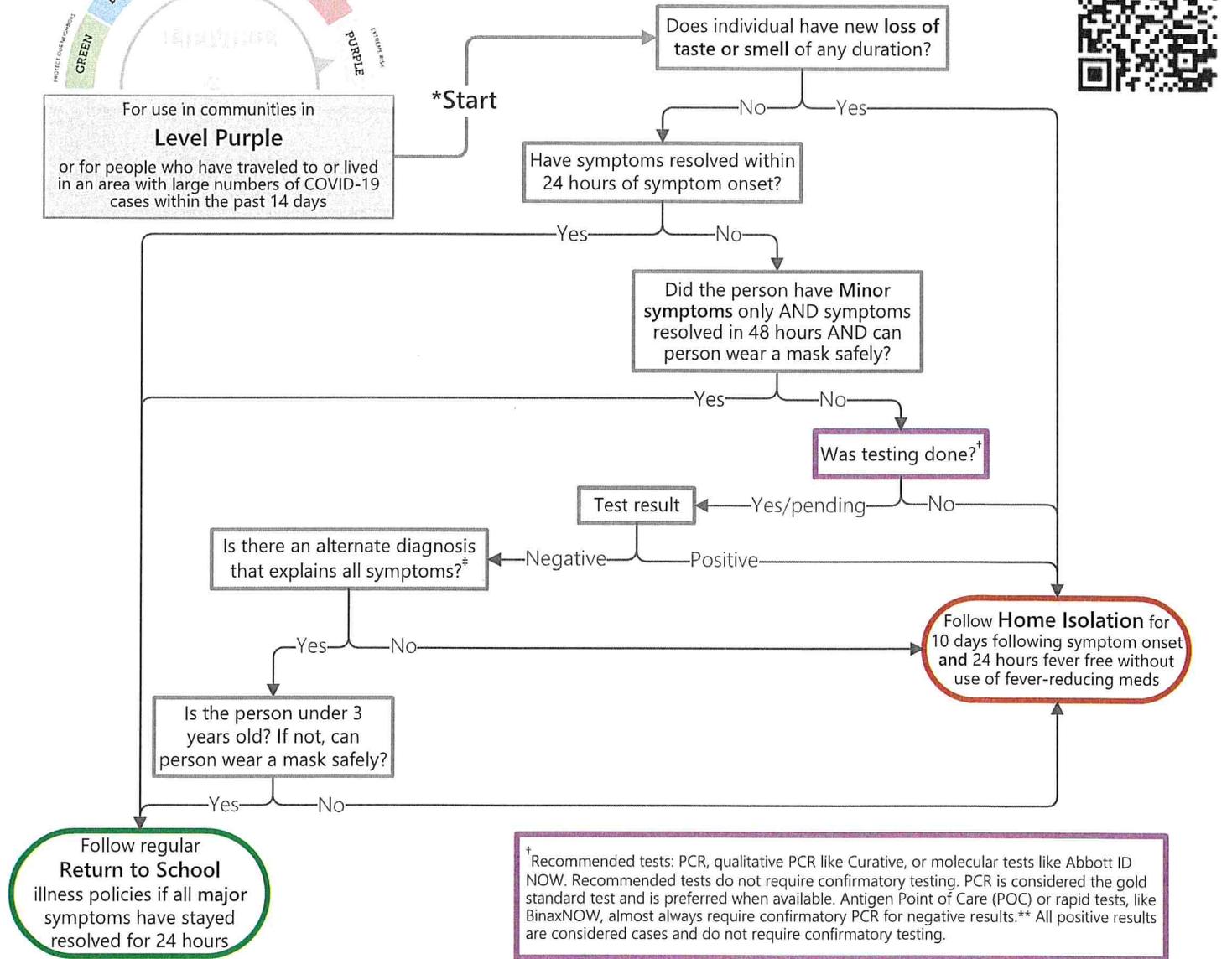
A confirmed COVID-19 case or close contact should follow public health isolation or quarantine instructions for return to school/work. No test result can end an individual's *isolation or quarantine* period early.

*All students/staff with symptoms of COVID-19 should be tested as soon as possible.

To request assistance or provide feedback:
<https://tinyurl.com/COP12Feedback>



For use in communities in **Level Purple** or for people who have traveled to or lived in an area with large numbers of COVID-19 cases within the past 14 days



† Recommended tests: PCR, qualitative PCR like Curative, or molecular tests like Abbott ID NOW. Recommended tests do not require confirmatory testing. PCR is considered the gold standard test and is preferred when available. Antigen Point of Care (POC) or rapid tests, like BinaxNOW, almost always require confirmatory PCR for negative results.** All positive results are considered cases and do not require confirmatory testing.

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| Critical Symptom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of taste or smell | Major Symptoms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feeling feverish, having chills, temperature of 100.4° F or greater New or worsening cough Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing | Minor Symptoms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sore throat Runny nose or congestion Muscle or body aches Headache Fatigue Nausea, vomiting Diarrhea |
|--|--|--|

If **all of the following conditions are met, confirmation of a negative antigen test with PCR is not needed (in all other circumstances, a negative must be confirmed with PCR.)

- No known exposure to a person with known or suspected COVID-19 (or part of an outbreak)
- No travel to an area with high incidence of COVID-19
- Lives/works/attends school in a community with 2-week incidence <50 cases per 100,000 (this information can be located at <https://covid19.colorado.gov/data> under Incidence and Epi Curves)
- Experiencing minor symptoms only (sore throat, runny nose or congestion, muscle or body aches, headache, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea)

‡ In the setting of medium or high transmission, the following are examples of alternate diagnoses that should be considered if the COVID-19 PCR is negative.

- Positive laboratory test: influenza, streptococcal pharyngitis ("strep throat"), bacterial infection
- Clinical diagnoses: worsening of known illness (such as asthma or seasonal allergies) with clear link to underlying disease

At Home COVID-19 Symptom Screening Tool For Parents and Staff

Parents and guardians can use these symptom checklists to determine when to keep their child at home. School staff can also use this tool to determine if they need to stay at home. **Any student or staff diagnosed with COVID-19 or who is a close contact of a COVID-19 case should not go to school and should [isolate or quarantine](#) according to public health recommendations regardless of current symptoms.**

This symptom screen refers only to new symptoms or a change in usual symptoms. A student/staff should not be kept home for usual symptoms they experience due to a chronic condition unless they are worse than usual. These guidelines are in addition to your regular school guidance (for example, a child with vomiting should also not attend school based on usual school guidance). Please refer to the [Return to Learn](#) guidance to determine when it is appropriate to return to school.

If your child is/you are experiencing any potentially life-threatening symptoms please call 911.

Symptom Screen:

If any of the following symptoms are present, keep the child at home/stay at home, inform the school of symptoms, and reach out to a health care provider about COVID-19 testing and next steps for treatment.

- Feeling feverish, having chills, or temperature 100.4°F or higher.
- New or unexplained persistent cough.
- Shortness of breath.
- Difficulty breathing.
- Loss of taste or smell.
- Fatigue.
- Muscle aches.
- Headache.
- Sore throat.
- Nausea or vomiting.
- Diarrhea.
- Runny nose or congestion.

Who is a close contact?

The below tool may be used to determine who needs to be quarantined in the event of an student/staff member with COVID-19 or symptoms of COVID-19 in school.

In addition, consider the following:

- Contacts should be identified based on the full contagious period, including 2 days before the sick student/staff member's symptoms started or positive test date, whichever is earlier
- All time-based criteria are cumulative (i.e. 2 x 10 minute exposures in a day is equivalent to one 20 minute exposure)
- It is not developmentally appropriate for young children to remain in their seats throughout a school day, and they may not be able to wear a mask consistently. This may increase the number of contacts associated with a case in younger grade levels.

TARGETED CONTACT IDENTIFICATION CRITERIA

ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY



Tracking illness-related absences



Seating charts available



Seating charts applicable



Plan to work with LPHA to perform contact tracing

MINIMIZING TRANSMISSION RISK



Home symptom screening encouraged



Sick individual masked, except during meals



Extra precautions for meals



No high risk activities (e.g. singing, wind/brass instruments, vigorous exertion)

TARGETED CONTACT IDENTIFICATION

Any person who meets ANY of the following criteria is a close contact:

- ❑ Were within 6 feet of the individual for 15 minutes or greater, when both parties are masked OR
- ❑ Were within 12 feet of the individual for 15 minutes or greater, when either parties is unmasked and indoors (e.g. mealtimes)

YES
to all

NO
to any

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ENHANCED CONTACT IDENTIFICATION

Any person who meets ANY of the following criteria is a close contact:

- ❑ Was in a room with the sick individual for 40 minutes* OR
- ❑ Was within 6 feet of the sick individual for 15 minutes, when both parties are masked OR
- ❑ Were within 12 feet of the individual for 15 minutes, when either parties is unmasked and indoors (e.g. mealtimes)

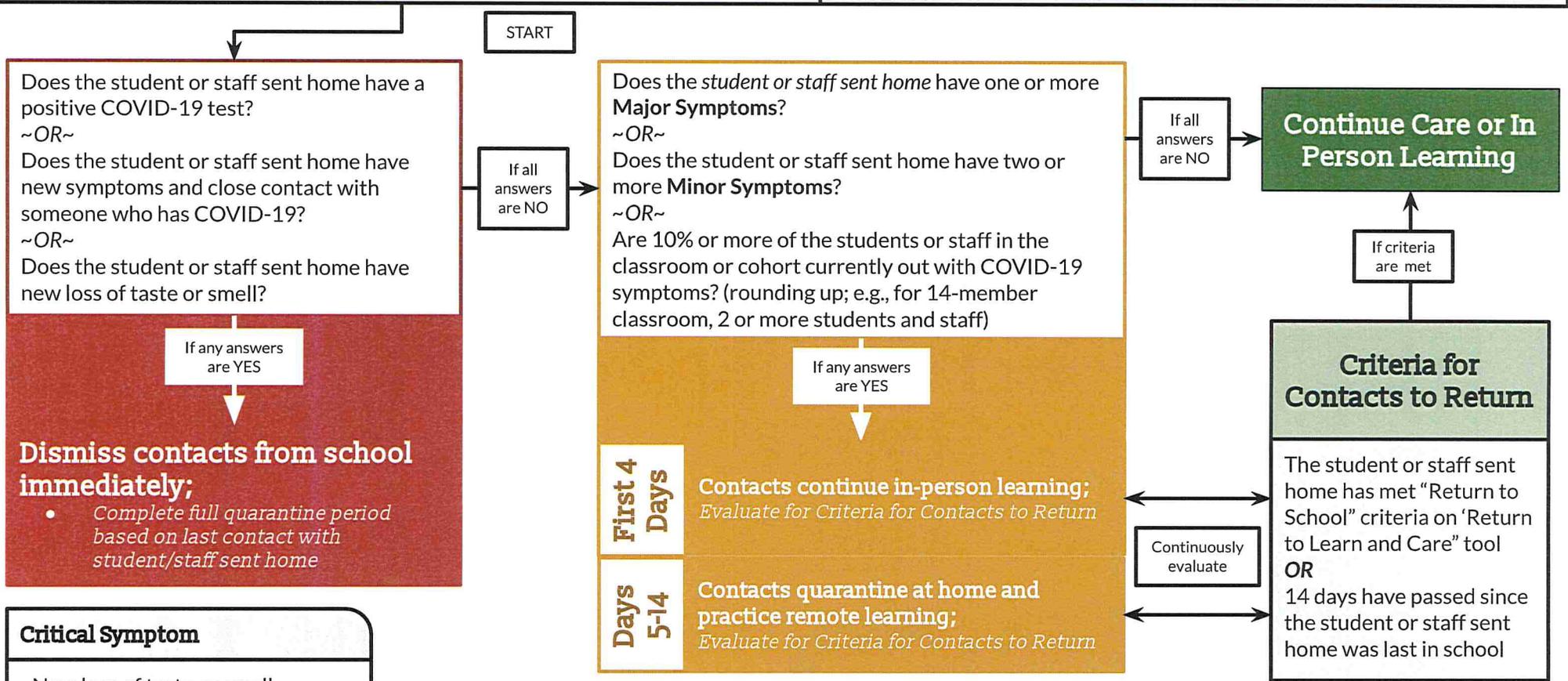
*Teachers wearing a KN95 or better and eye protection do not need to quarantine unless they were within 6 ft for 15 minutes of the sick person (or 12 ft for 15 minutes if the sick person was not wearing a mask.)

*[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)31142-9/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)31142-9/fulltext)

What happens to the contacts*?

If the student or staff sent home was in class within 48 hours prior to their test or symptom onset, follow the flowchart below.

*If a contact was previously PCR positive within the last 90 days, then they do not need to quarantine. However, they should be re-evaluated if they develop COVID-19 symptoms within 14 days of the contact.



Critical Symptom

- New loss of taste or smell

Major symptoms

- Feeling feverish, having chills, temperature of 100.4 or greater
- New or worsening cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Minor symptoms

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| - Sore throat | - Fatigue |
| - Runny nose or congestion | - Nausea, vomiting |
| - Muscle or body aches | - Diarrhea |
| - Headache | |

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