

Symptom and Quarantine Decision Pathways in Early Care and Education Centers and TK-12 Schools

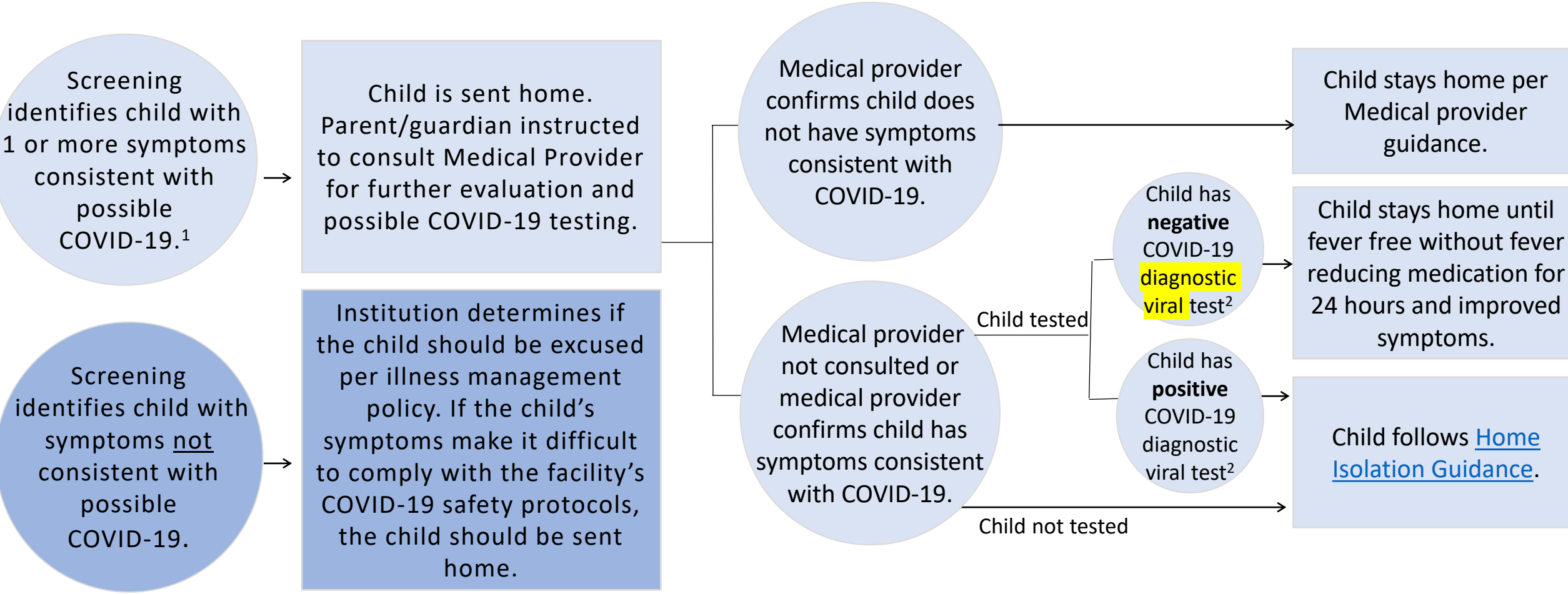
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

Updated: 1/5/2022

Symptom Decision Pathways for *Children*

Decision Pathways for Children with Symptoms Prior to Entry* into an Educational Institution, Regardless of Vaccination or Booster Status

*If child becomes unwell at the facility, place child in an isolation area (physically distant from attendant, ideally outdoors) and follow decision pathways described below.

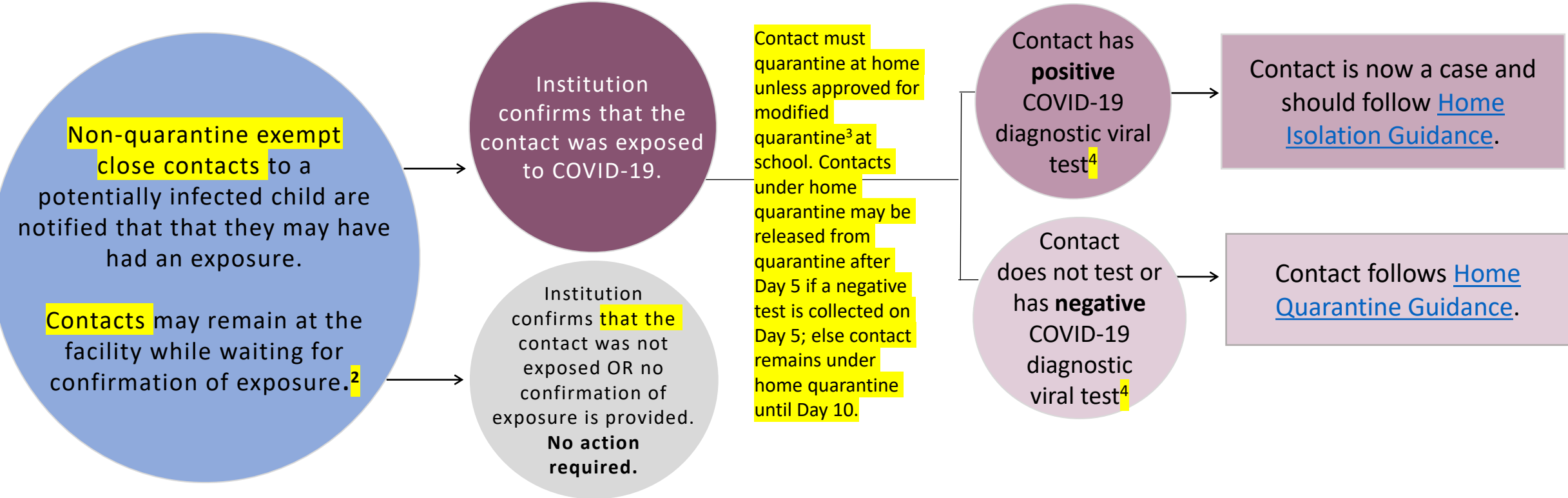


¹Symptoms consistent with possible COVID-19 infection in children include: fever ≥ 100.4°F; new cough (different from baseline); diarrhea or vomiting. If the child's symptoms are not consistent with possible COVID-19 but there is still concern, evaluation of the child by a medical provider is recommended. ²Testing: A COVID-19 diagnostic viral test, including a Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT, such as PCR) or an Antigen test, that is collected and performed in a healthcare setting or certified testing site, or an FDA-authorized Over-the-Counter test may be used. If an Over-the-Counter test is used and is positive, the individual should be presumed to have COVID-19 and should follow [Home Isolation Guidance](#).

Decision Pathways for Non-Quarantine Exempt* Close Contacts of a Potentially Infected Child with Symptoms Consistent with Possible COVID-19**

*Non-quarantine exempt persons are (1) close contacts who are not Fully Vaccinated OR (2) close contacts who are Fully Vaccinated and booster-eligible but have NOT yet received their booster dose.

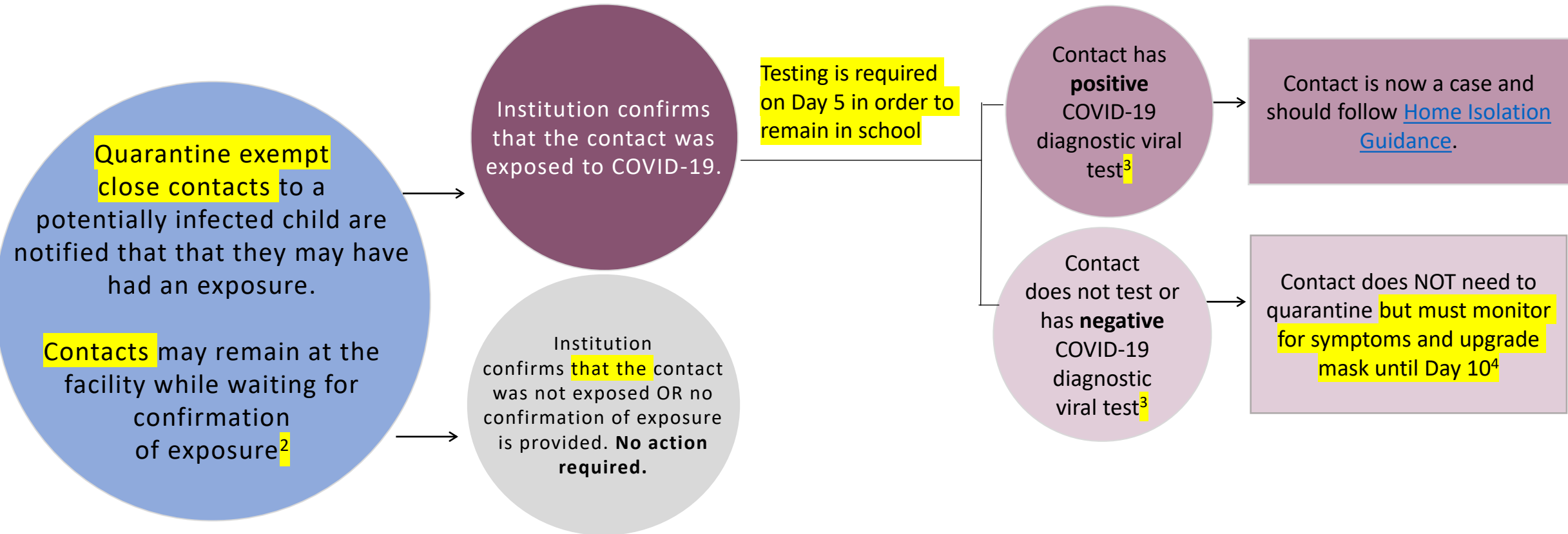
** Close contacts of a potentially infected child with symptoms consistent with possible COVID-19¹ are persons at the facility who were within 6 feet with a child with ≥ 1 symptoms consistent with possible COVID-19 for ≥ 15 minutes over a 24-hour period OR had direct contact with bodily fluids/secretions with a child with ≥ 1 symptoms consistent with possible COVID-19.



¹Symptoms consistent with possible COVID-19 in children include: fever ≥ 100.4°F; new cough (different from baseline); diarrhea or vomiting. If the child's symptoms are not consistent with possible COVID-19 but there is still concern, evaluation of the child by a medical provider is recommended. ²Exposure is confirmed for a close contact to a potentially infected child if the site receives notification that the potentially infected child had a positive COVID-19 diagnostic viral test OR received a COVID-19 diagnosis from a medical provider. ³Modified quarantine applies only to TK-12 school students who had a school exposure. Criteria for modified quarantine can be found in the TK-12 Exposure Management Plan. ⁴Testing: A COVID-19 diagnostic viral test, including a nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT, such as PCR) or an Antigen test for SARS-CoV-2, that is collected and performed in a healthcare setting or certified testing site, or an FDA-authorized Over-the-Counter test may be used. If the Over-the-Counter test used and is positive, the individual should be presumed to have COVID-19 and should follow Home Isolation Guidance.

Decision Pathways for Quarantine Exempt* Close Contacts to a Potentially Infected Child with Symptoms Consistent with Possible COVID-19**

*Quarantine exempt persons are (1) close contacts who are boosted OR (2) close contacts who are Fully Vaccinated but not yet booster-eligible.
 **Close contacts of a potentially infected child with symptoms consistent with possible COVID-19¹ are persons at the facility who were within 6 feet with a child with ≥ 1 symptoms consistent with possible COVID-19 for ≥ 15 minutes over a 24-hour period OR had direct contact with bodily fluids/secretions with a child with ≥ 1 symptoms consistent with possible COVID-19.

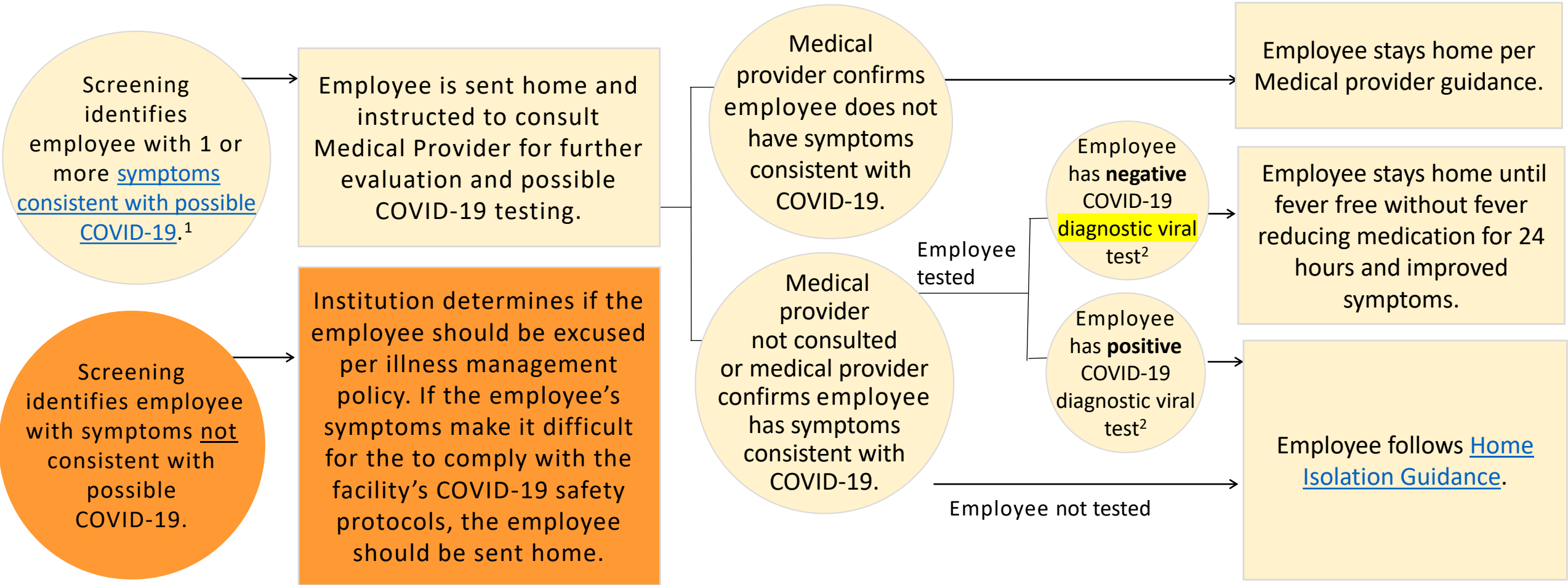


¹Symptoms consistent with possible COVID-19 in children include: fever ≥ 100.4°F; new cough (different from baseline); diarrhea or vomiting. If the child’s symptoms are not consistent with possible COVID-19 but there is still concern, evaluation of the child by a medical provider is recommended. ²Exposure is confirmed for a close contact to a potentially infected child if the site receives notification that the potentially infected child had a positive COVID-19 diagnostic viral test OR received a COVID-19 diagnosis from a medical provider. ³Testing: A COVID-19 diagnostic viral test, including a nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT, such as PCR) or an Antigen test for SARS-CoV-2, that is collected and performed in a healthcare setting or certified testing site, or an FDA-authorized Over-the-Counter test may be used. If the Over-the-Counter test used and is positive, the individual should be presumed to have COVID-19 and should follow Home Isolation Guidance. ⁴Some people should not wear a mask, such as children younger than 24 months. Children ages 2 to 8 should wear a mask only when under adult supervision. See Who should not wear a mask and Special considerations for persons with communication difficulties or certain disabilities.

Symptom Decision Pathways for *Employees*

Decision Pathways for Employees with **Symptoms** Prior to Entry* into an Educational Institution, Regardless of Vaccination **or Booster** Status

*If employee becomes unwell at the facility, place employee in an isolation area (ideally outdoors, physically distant from attendant) and follow decision pathways below.

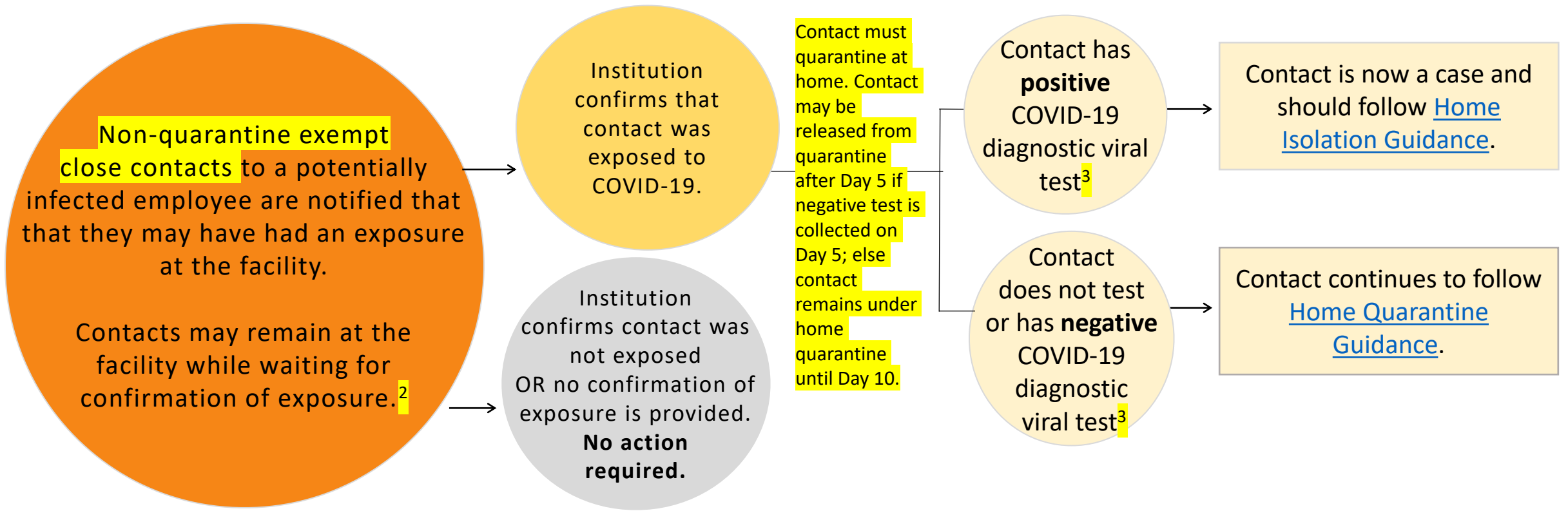


¹Symptoms consistent with possible COVID-19 in adults: fever ≥ 100.4° or feeling feverish (chills, sweating); cough; shortness of breath; new loss of taste or smell; fatigue; runny or stuffy nose; muscle or body aches; headache; sore throat; nausea or vomiting; diarrhea. If the symptoms are not listed but there is still concern, additional evaluation by a medical provider is recommended. ²Testing: A COVID-19 diagnostic viral test, including a nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT, such as PCR) or an Antigen test for SARS-CoV-2, that is collected and performed in a healthcare setting or certified testing site, or an FDA-authorized Over-the-Counter test may be used. If the Over-the-Counter test used and is positive, the individual should be presumed to have COVID-19 and should follow Home Isolation Guidance.

Decision Pathways for Non-quarantine Exempt* Close Contacts to a Potentially Infected Employee with Symptoms Consistent with Possible COVID-19**

*Non-quarantine exempt persons are (1) close contacts who are not Fully Vaccinated OR (2) close contacts who are Fully Vaccinated and booster-eligible but have NOT yet received their booster dose.

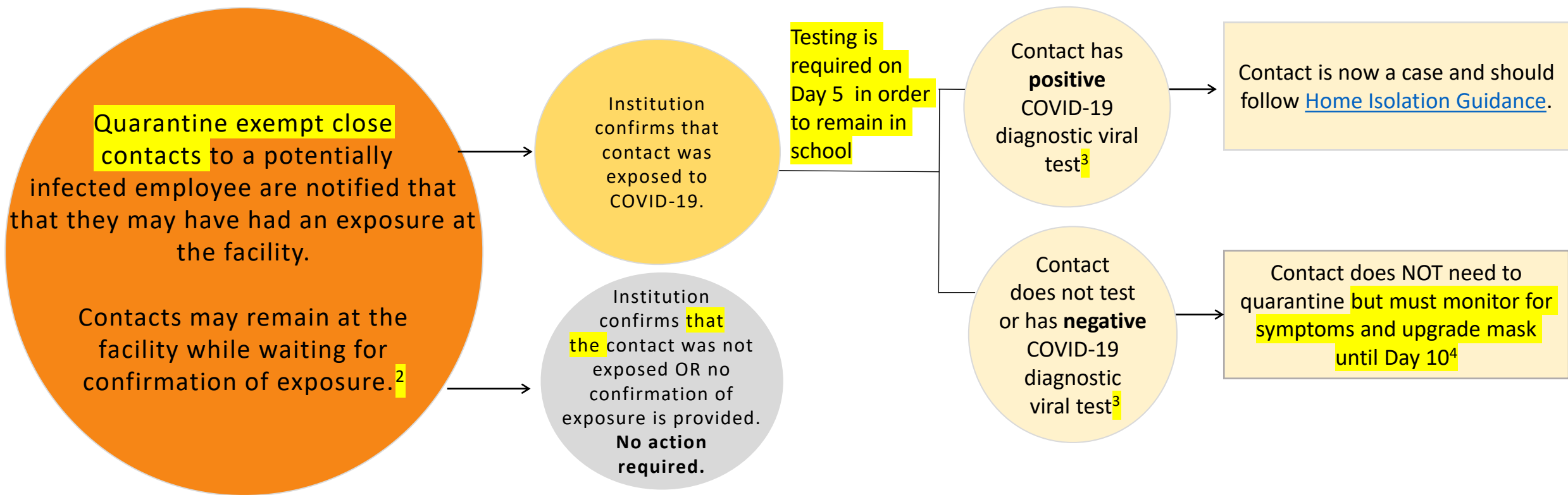
**Close contacts of a potentially infected employee with symptoms consistent with possible COVID-19¹ are persons at the facility who were within 6 feet of an employee with ≥ 1 symptoms consistent with possible COVID-19 for ≥ 15 minutes over a 24-hour period with a potentially infected employee OR had direct contact with bodily fluids/secretions from an employee with ≥ 1 symptoms consistent with possible COVID-19.



¹Symptoms consistent with possible COVID-19 in adults: fever ≥ 100.4° or feeling feverish (chills, sweating); cough; shortness of breath; new loss of taste or smell; fatigue; runny or stuffy nose; muscle or body aches; headache; sore throat; nausea or vomiting; diarrhea. If the symptoms are not listed but there is still concern, additional evaluation by a medical provider is recommended. ²Exposure is confirmed for a close contact to a potentially infected employee if the site receives notification that the potentially infected employee had a positive COVID-19 diagnostic viral test OR received a COVID-19 diagnosis from a medical provider. ³Testing: A COVID-19 diagnostic viral test, including a nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT, such as PCR) or an Antigen test for SARS-CoV-2, that is collected and performed in a healthcare setting or certified testing site, or an FDA-authorized Over-the-Counter test may be used. If the Over-the-Counter test used and is positive, the individual should be presumed to have COVID-19 and should follow Home Isolation Guidance.

Decision Pathways for Quarantine Exempt* Close Contacts to a Potentially Infected Employee with Symptoms Consistent with Possible COVID-19**

*Quarantine exempt persons are (1) close contacts who are boosted OR (2) close contacts who are Fully Vaccinated but not yet booster-eligible.
** Close contacts of a potentially infected employee with symptoms consistent with possible COVID-19¹ are persons at the facility who were within 6 feet of an employee with ≥ 1 symptoms consistent with possible COVID-19 for ≥ 15 minutes over a 24-hour period with a potentially infected employee OR had direct contact with bodily fluids/secretions from an employee with ≥ 1 symptoms consistent with possible COVID-19.



¹Symptoms consistent with possible COVID-19 in adults: fever $\geq 100.4^\circ$ or feeling feverish (chills, sweating); cough; shortness of breath; new loss of taste or smell; fatigue; runny or stuffy nose; muscle or body aches; headache; sore throat; nausea or vomiting; diarrhea. If the symptoms are not listed but there is still concern, additional evaluation by a medical provider is recommended. ²Exposure is confirmed for a close contact to a potentially infected employee if the site receives notification that the potentially infected employee had a positive COVID-19 diagnostic viral test OR received a COVID-19 diagnosis from a medical provider. ³Testing: A COVID-19 diagnostic viral test, including a nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT, such as PCR) or an Antigen test for SARS-CoV-2, that is collected and performed in a healthcare setting or certified testing site, or an FDA-authorized Over-the-Counter test may be used. If the Over-the-Counter test used and is positive, the individual should be presumed to have COVID-19 and should follow Home Isolation Guidance. ⁴Some people should not wear a mask, such as children younger than 24 months. Children ages 2 to 8 should wear a mask only when under adult supervision. See Who should not wear a mask and Special considerations for persons with communication difficulties or certain disabilities.

Quarantine Pathways for Children and Staff with Exposures at Early Care and Education Centers and TK-12 Schools

Identifying Exposures On Campus - Close Contacts to a Confirmed Case

A **close contact** is a person who has been exposed to someone diagnosed with COVID-19 during the infectious period* if **at least one** of the following has occurred:

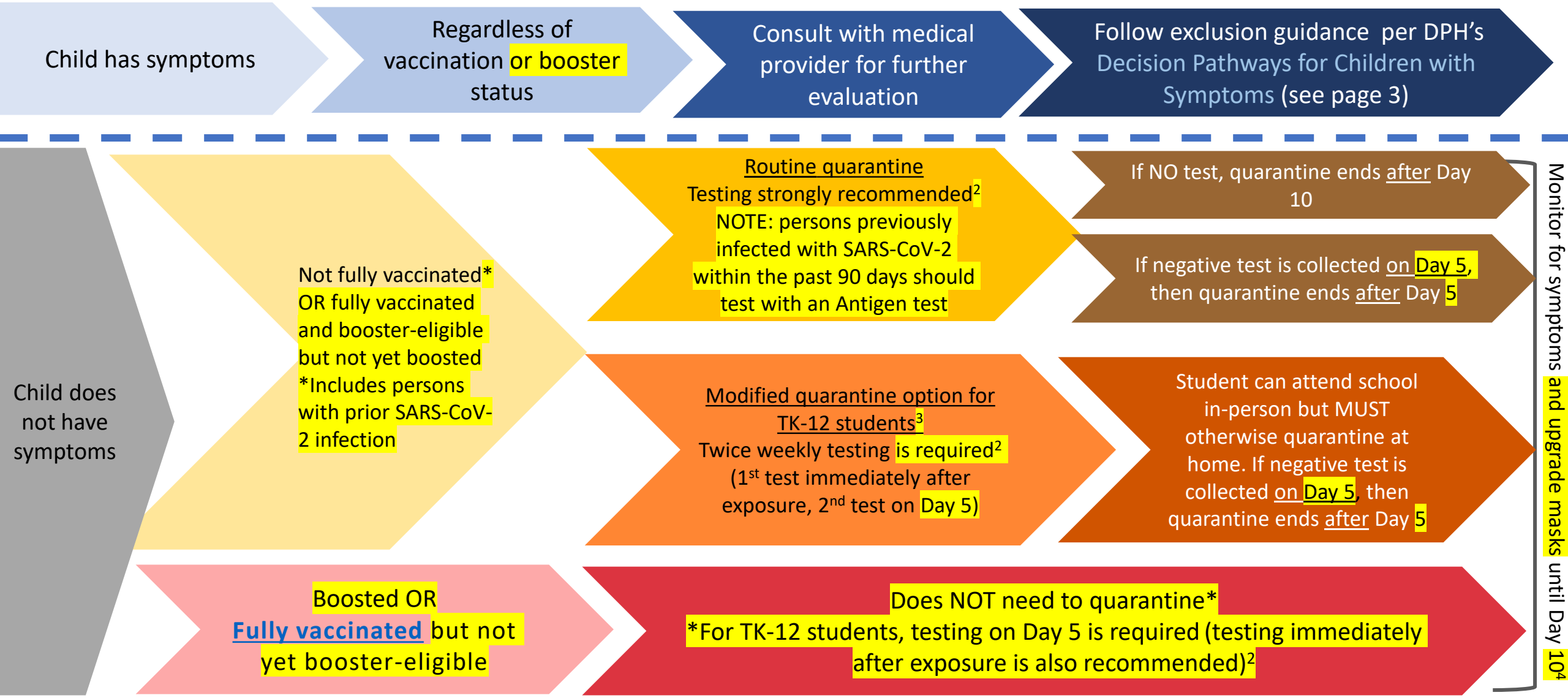
- The person was within 6 feet of someone with COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period;

OR

- The person had unprotected contact with body fluids and/or secretions from someone with COVID-19. For example, they were coughed or sneezed on, they shared a drinking cup or eating utensils, they kissed, or they provided care to the infected person without wearing the right protective equipment.
- A person is considered to be **infectious** and able to spread the virus to others from 2 days before symptoms first started until 10 days have passed since symptoms first started AND no fever for at least 24 hours AND symptoms improve; OR, if symptoms never develop, from 2 days before their positive test was taken until 10 days after that test was taken.

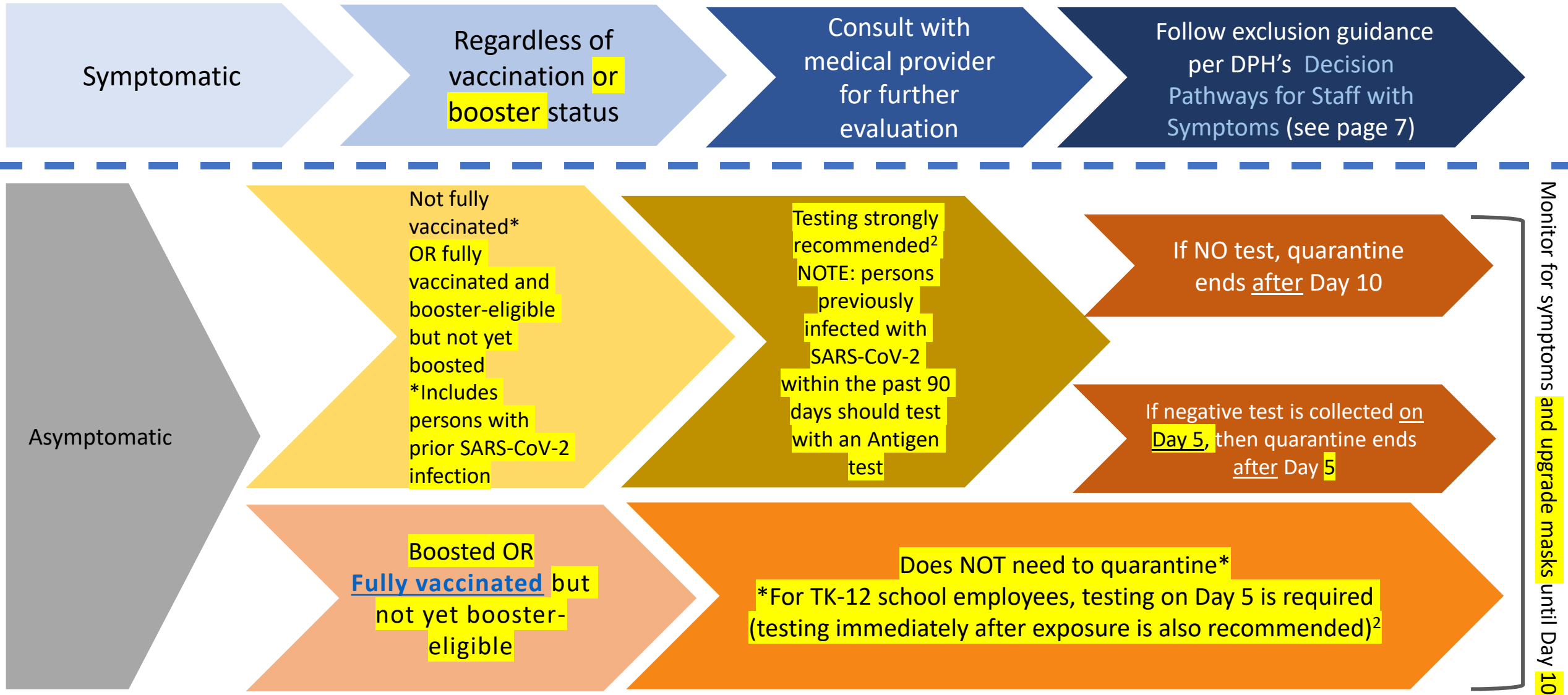
NOTE: a person should not be considered a close contact unless the program is reasonably sure that they meet the definition above. Individuals should not be considered a close contact solely because they were present in the same classroom or school group as an infected person. If a program cannot determine who is a close contact, they should contact Public health for technical assistance.

Quarantine Pathway For Exposed Children¹



¹Follows Los Angeles County Department of Public Health [Home Quarantine Guidance](#). ²Testing: A COVID-19 diagnostic viral test, including a nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT, such as PCR) or an Antigen test for SARS-CoV-2, that is collected and performed in a healthcare setting or certified testing site, or an FDA-authorized Over-the-Counter test may be used. If the Over-the-Counter test used and is positive, the individual should be presumed to have COVID-19 and should follow [Home Isolation Guidance](#). ³Modified quarantine applies only to TK-12 school students who had a school exposure. Criteria for modified quarantine can be found in the TK-12 [Exposure Management Plan](#). ⁴There are some people who should not wear a mask, such as children younger than 24 months. Children ages 2 to 8 should wear a mask only when under adult supervision. See [Who should not wear a mask](#) and [Special considerations for persons with communication difficulties or certain disabilities](#).

Quarantine Pathway for Exposed Employees¹



¹Follows Los Angeles County Department of Public Health [Home Quarantine Guidance](#) which allows employees to return to work as soon as they have cleared quarantine, which may be before they meet Cal/OSHA's criteria for return-to-work. ²Testing: A COVID-19 diagnostic viral test, including a nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT, such as PCR) or an Antigen test for SARS-CoV-2, that is collected and performed in a healthcare setting or certified testing site, or an FDA-authorized Over-the-Counter test may be used. If the Over-the-Counter test used and is positive, the individual should be presumed to have COVID-19 and should follow [Home Isolation Guidance](#). ³There are some people who should not wear a mask. See [Who should not wear a mask](#) and [Special considerations for persons with communication difficulties or certain disabilities](#).