

CUYAHOGA COUNTY
BOARD OF HEALTH
YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION

COVID-19 Decision Tree for Schools

October 2020

This document is intended to be used as a decision-making guide when dealing with potential or confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the school environment.

Contents include:

- A glossary of terms
- General reminders
- A presentation of scenarios involving students and staff members

The colors presented in the scenarios are not related to the Ohio Public Health Advisory System

This guide contains information compiled by the Minnesota Department of Health.

Contact us with questions:

schools@ccbh.net

216.201.2000

Visit www.ccbh.net for more information about COVID-19

Glossary of COVID-19 terms

Asymptomatic

A person who is not showing symptoms. Typically, the person feels well and would not know they were ill without a test.

Symptomatic

A person who shows signs of illness such as cough, fever, runny nose, etc.

[Click to see the CDC list of COVID-19 symptoms](#)

Close Contact

Someone who was within six feet of a positive person for 15 minutes or more. Also, this could be someone who was exposed multiple times within one day. Repeated short-term exposures may take place during athletic practices or other extracurricular activities.

Incubation Period

The length of time it takes for someone to show symptoms of illness after being exposed to someone or something infectious. For COVID-19, the period is 2-14 days.

Exclude/Exclusion

Persons who are suspected of being ill with something other than COVID-19 (flu, norovirus) must also be excluded until a healthcare provider allows them to return to school/work.

Isolation

This is for people who are ill. They must be separated from others so that they do not spread their illness.

It is best for the ill person to use a separate bathroom and their own set of towels, utensils and bedding. Be sure to regularly clean and disinfect commonly-touched surfaces and fixtures. Do not share food or drink with someone who is isolated.

Quarantine

This is for people who are not ill but have been exposed to someone who is. Those who are placed in quarantine need to stay home because they could become ill during their quarantine period. In either instance, they run the risk of spreading illness to others if they do not remain in quarantine.

****Even with a negative result, those placed in quarantine must remain there for the entire 14-day period.***

The contact tracing process includes:

- Providing completed contact tracing line list to CCBH
- Cleaning and disinfecting areas where the positive case was known to be
- Beginning a 14-day quarantine for close contacts

Reminders

- Some COVID-19 symptoms may be similar to those of allergies, cold or flu
- Be sure to check with your healthcare provider concerning medical questions
- A healthcare provider may recommend additional testing or offer a different diagnosis
- Asymptomatic cases should isolate for 10 days from their testing date
- Contact CCBH with any questions

Find a testing location or a local community health center

Visit the Ohio Department of Health's COVID-19 website at www.coronavirus.ohio.gov

Scan the QR code below



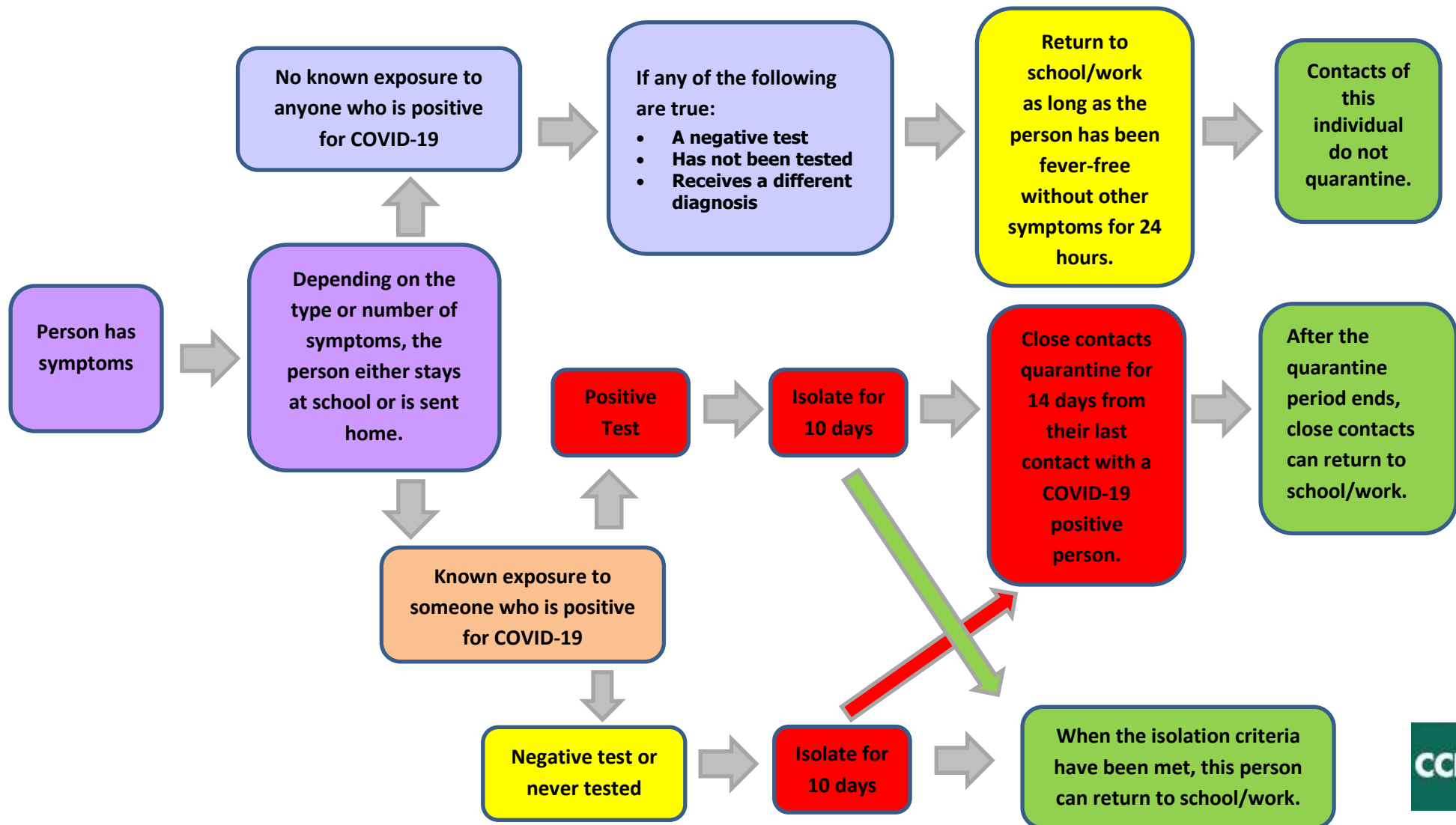
If a person has:

- One or more Category A symptoms OR
- Two or more Category B symptoms

then COVID-19 should be suspected

- **Category A:** fever greater than or equal to 100.4°F, new onset and/or worsening cough, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell.
- **Category B:** sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, chills, muscle pain, excessive fatigue, new onset of severe headache, new onset of nasal congestion or runny nose.

Follow the diagram for guidance or email schools@ccbh.net for more information.



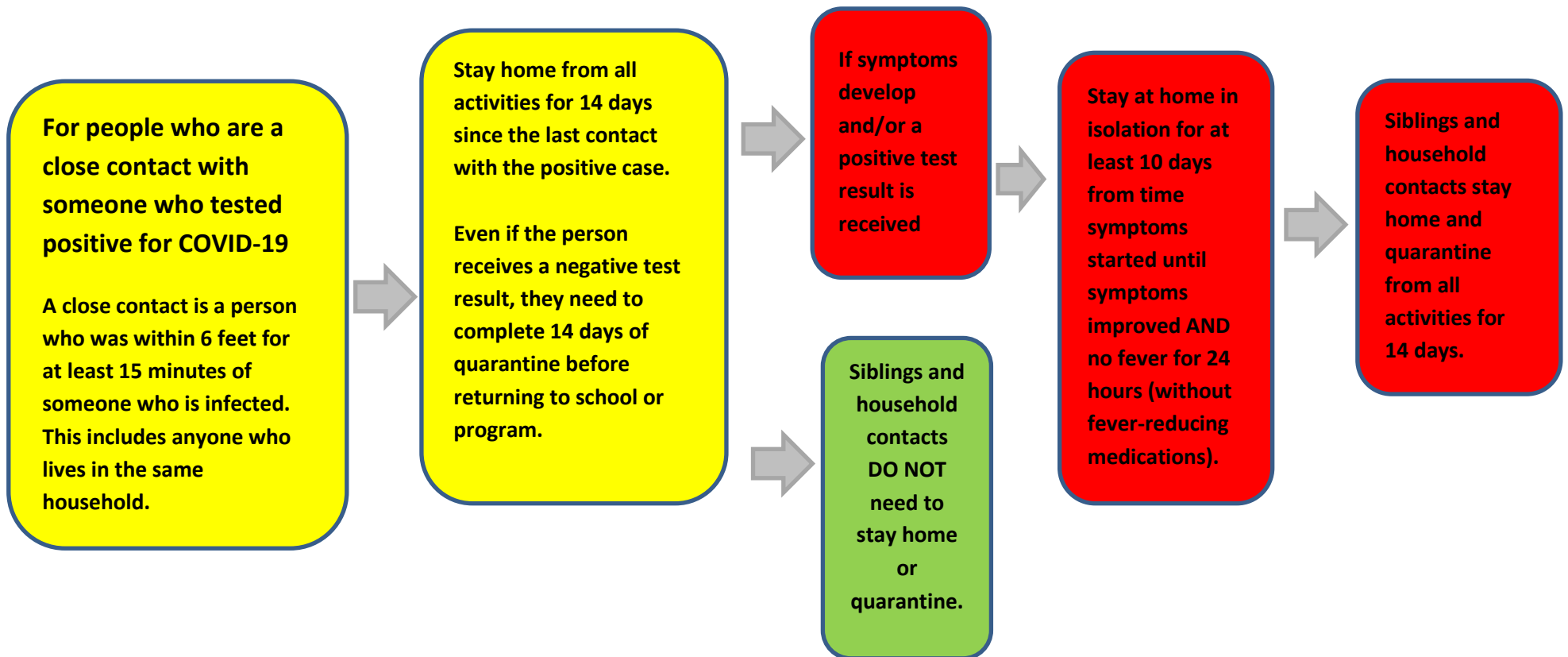
If a person has:

- One or more Category A symptoms OR
- Two or more Category B symptoms

then COVID-19 should be suspected

- **Category A:** fever greater than or equal to 100.4°F, new onset and/or worsening cough, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell.
- **Category B:** sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, chills, muscle pain, excessive fatigue, new onset of severe headache, new onset of nasal congestion or runny nose.

Follow the diagram for guidance or email schools@ccbh.net for more information.



If a person has:

- One or more Category A symptoms OR
- Two or more Category B symptoms

then COVID-19 should be suspected

- **Category A:** fever greater than or equal to 100.4°F, new onset and/or worsening cough, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell.
- **Category B:** sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, chills, muscle pain, excessive fatigue, new onset of severe headache, new onset of nasal congestion or runny nose.

Follow the diagram for guidance or email schools@ccbh.net for more information.

