

COVID-19 Decision Trees for Childcare

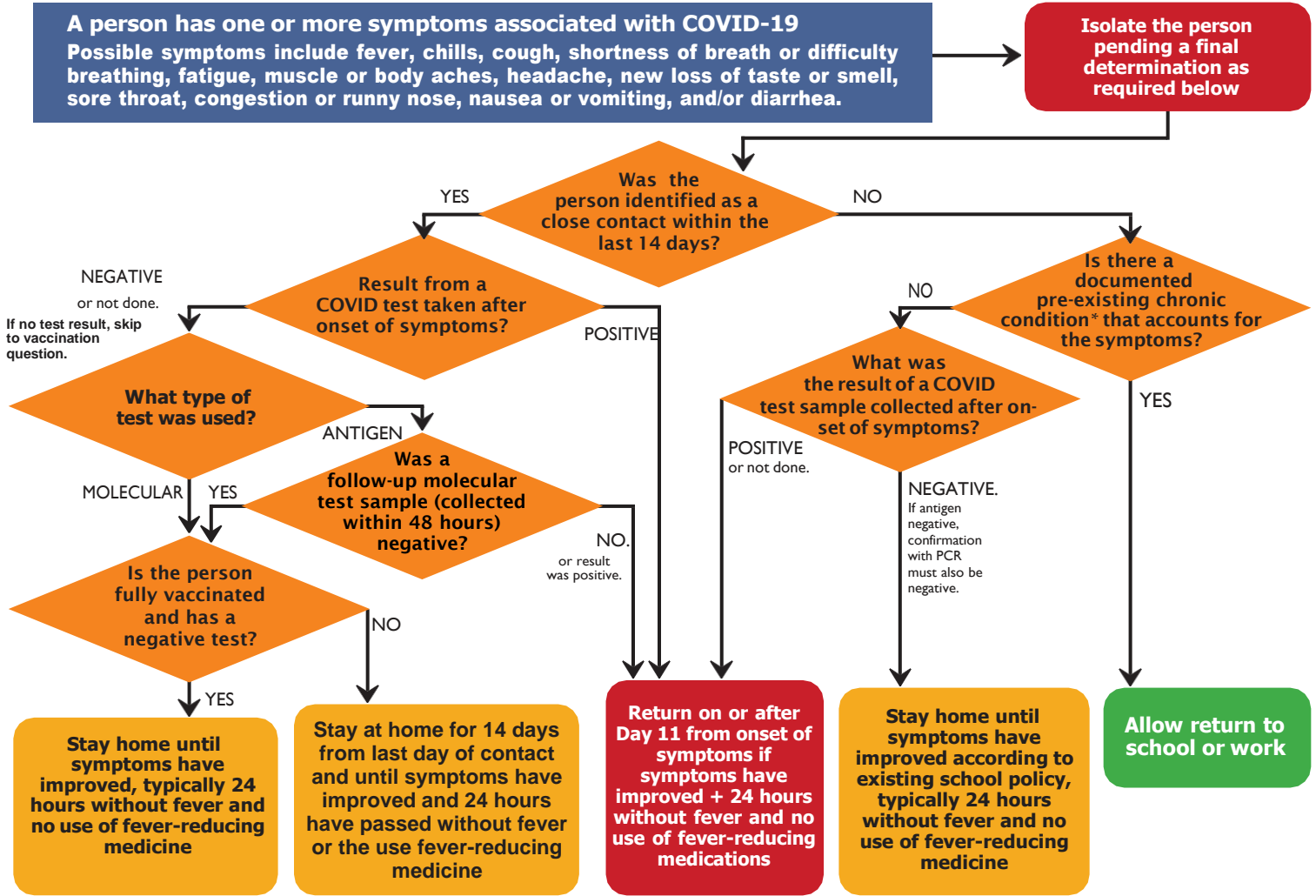
November 18, 2021



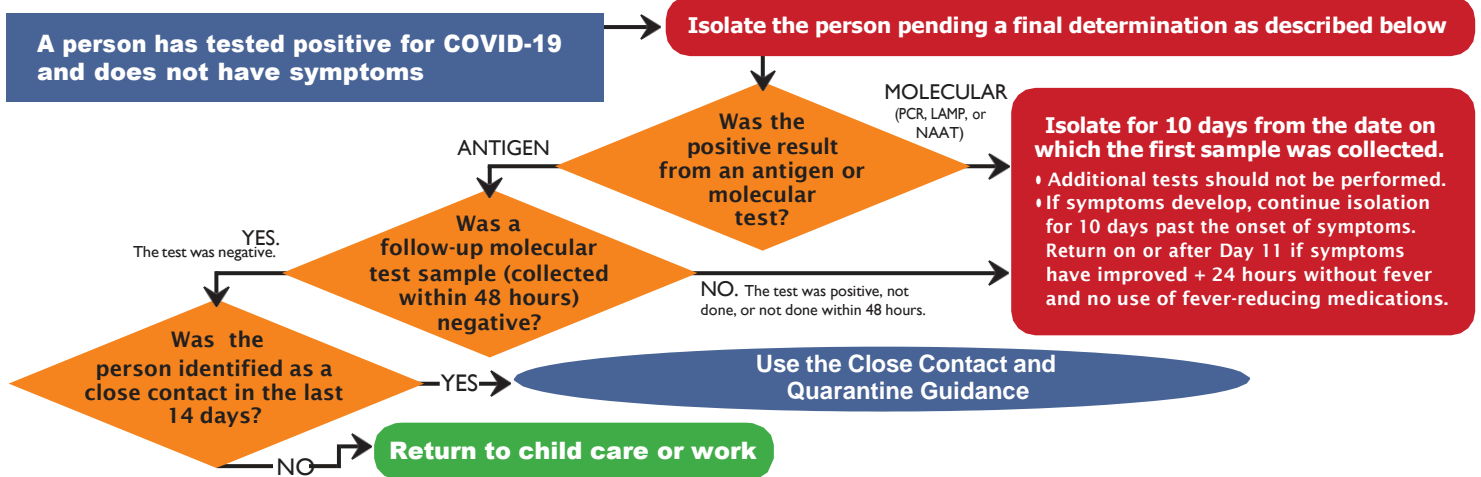
If the person (staff or child)...

- 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 Guidance**

Symptom and Isolation Tree



Asymptomatic Positive Tree



Close Contact and Quarantine Guidance

*Chronic Conditions

Must have a signed note from a licensed MD/DO/NP/PA (who manages the condition) and the note must: confirm the chronic diagnosis, cite any associated labs, include the date when diagnosed, include provider's contact information and explain how symptoms typically present as part of the chronic condition. The note must be accompanied by signed consent for the childcare provider to interact with MD/DO/NP/PA .

Quarantine Guidance

- Refrain from quarantine if you are fully vaccinated** and have no symptoms. CDC recommends a test 5-7 days after the day of last exposure.
- Refrain from quarantine and testing if you are within 90 days of a lab-confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19.
- If you are not fully vaccinated or are not within 90 days of a lab-confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, you must quarantine for 14 days from the day of last exposure. Modified quarantine periods are currently not applicable to preschools or centers caring for children outside of a K-12 campus.
- In the workplace employers subject to the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention ETS must ensure that employees are following the current ETS face covering and testing requirements.

***People are considered fully vaccinated:*

*2 weeks after their 2nd dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer or Moderna) OR 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine (J&J).
Even if you are eligible for a booster dose, a booster dose is not required to be considered fully vaccinated.*

School-Aged Child Care Providers

Not located on site at a K-12 school campus (public or private)

Programs providing care for school-aged children **may** be permitted to follow 10-day for staff and students exposed to COVID-19 as long as providers ensure close contacts continue to follow all non-pharmaceutical interventions through Day 14, as outlined in the SD County [Health Officer Order](#) on Quarantine. These precautions include symptom monitoring, consistent use of face coverings, and maintaining a distance of at least 6 feet from others. If all these requirements cannot or will not be met, 14-day quarantine is required.

Located on site at a K-12 school campus (public or private)

Programs providing care for school-aged children, should refer to the [K-12 COVID-19 Decision Tree](#) quarantine requirements for before-school and after-school activities.

COVID Test Types

Appropriate Test Types:

Molecular Tests

- Lab-processed PCR or NAAT



Antigen Tests

- If symptomatic, a negative antigen test requires molecular test (PCR, NAAT) confirmation and individuals should isolate until the molecular test results are available.
- If asymptomatic, a positive test requires a confirmation with a molecular test (PCR, NAAT) and individuals should isolate until the molecular test results are available.
- In most cases, at-home tests cannot be used to satisfy the testing required for quarantine, or for state-mandated testing of employees who have not provided evidence of full vaccination. Tests must be administered by a clinic, lab, or properly trained school employees working under agreement with an ordering physician.

Onsite Rapid Tests

For people with one or more of the **symptoms** associated with COVID-19:

- A negative result from an antigen must be confirmed by a laboratory-processed test.
- A negative result from a Cue test administered on-site does not require confirmation with a lab-processed test.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the difference between **quarantine** and **isolation**?

Quarantine: People who have been identified as having been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 are required to quarantine away from others because they may become infected with COVID-19 from 2 to 14 days following their last contact with a person who has COVID-19.

Isolation: People who have one or more of the symptoms associated with COVID-19 are required to isolate away from others while they may be contagious with COVID-19. A person:

- With symptoms is considered to be contagious from 2 days before their symptoms began, to 10 days after.
- Who has tested positive and does not have symptoms is considered contagious from 2 days before the date their first positive test sample was collected until 10 days after, if they remain asymptomatic.
- Who tested positive while they were asymptomatic, and develops symptoms later, is considered contagious from 2 days before the first positive test sample was collected until 10 days after their symptoms began.

2. What counts as a **close contact**?

- Being within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period
- Providing care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19
- Having direct physical contact with the person (hugged or kissed them)
- Sharing eating or drinking utensils
- Being sneezed on, coughed on, or somehow getting respiratory droplets on you from someone with COVID-19
- Close contacts may be identified and excluded, in conjunction with local health department and healthcare provider guidance, based on symptoms and circumstance, such as in the absence of test results.

Frequently Asked Questions, cont.

3. Who is **exempt from quarantine** requirements?

Close contacts who do not have symptoms are not required to quarantine if they provide evidence that they:

- Are fully vaccinated
OR
- Have recovered from a lab confirmed case of COVID-19 and it has been 90 days or less since diagnosis.

If symptoms do occur, even people who are fully vaccinated, and those who have already had COVID-19 are required to self-isolate immediately and contact their health provider or San Diego County Public Health Services.

4. **How long do I have to quarantine** if a member of my household is COVID positive?

If I am not exempt from quarantine (as per Question 3 above) and there is ongoing exposure to a positive case, such as a household contact, and the case and contact continue to share a home, the close contact's quarantine will begin once the positive case's isolation period has ended. Typically, this is a period of 24 days (10-day isolation period + 14-day quarantine, with the 10th day being the contact's last day of exposure). If the COVID-19 positive person is not able to isolate in a separate residence, the county's [home isolation instructions \(translations\)](#) describe the specific requirements for isolation in a home occupied by others. If the person is able to comply with these instructions, quarantine of close contacts can begin when the COVID-19 positive person begins isolation.

5. Does the **K-12 guidance** apply to childcare settings serving preschool age children on school campuses?

CDPH has published guidance for each sector, K-12 in conjunction with Department of Education and Early Childhood Education in conjunction with Community Care Licensing. As K-12 and ECE serve different populations and have different methods of instruction, different precautions are needed in the ECE setting. The Childcare Decision Tree is based on the CDPH [Child Care Providers and Programs](#) guidance, [Cal/OSHA Emergency Temporary Standards](#), and the local [public health orders](#), pertinent executive orders, and answers received directly from the CDPH. CDPH has recently responded to feedback and now is allowing changes **only for childcare serving school age children located on K-12 campuses**, as reflected above. It is anticipated more changes will follow over time.

6. Is **contact tracing** required for attendees and staff in outdoor childcare settings?

Yes. For most unvaccinated persons who have had close contact (within 6 feet for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) with someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, CDPH recommends the exposed person get tested and self-quarantine at home. CDPH does not make a distinction between indoor and outdoor exposure in accounting for the 15 minutes of exposure.