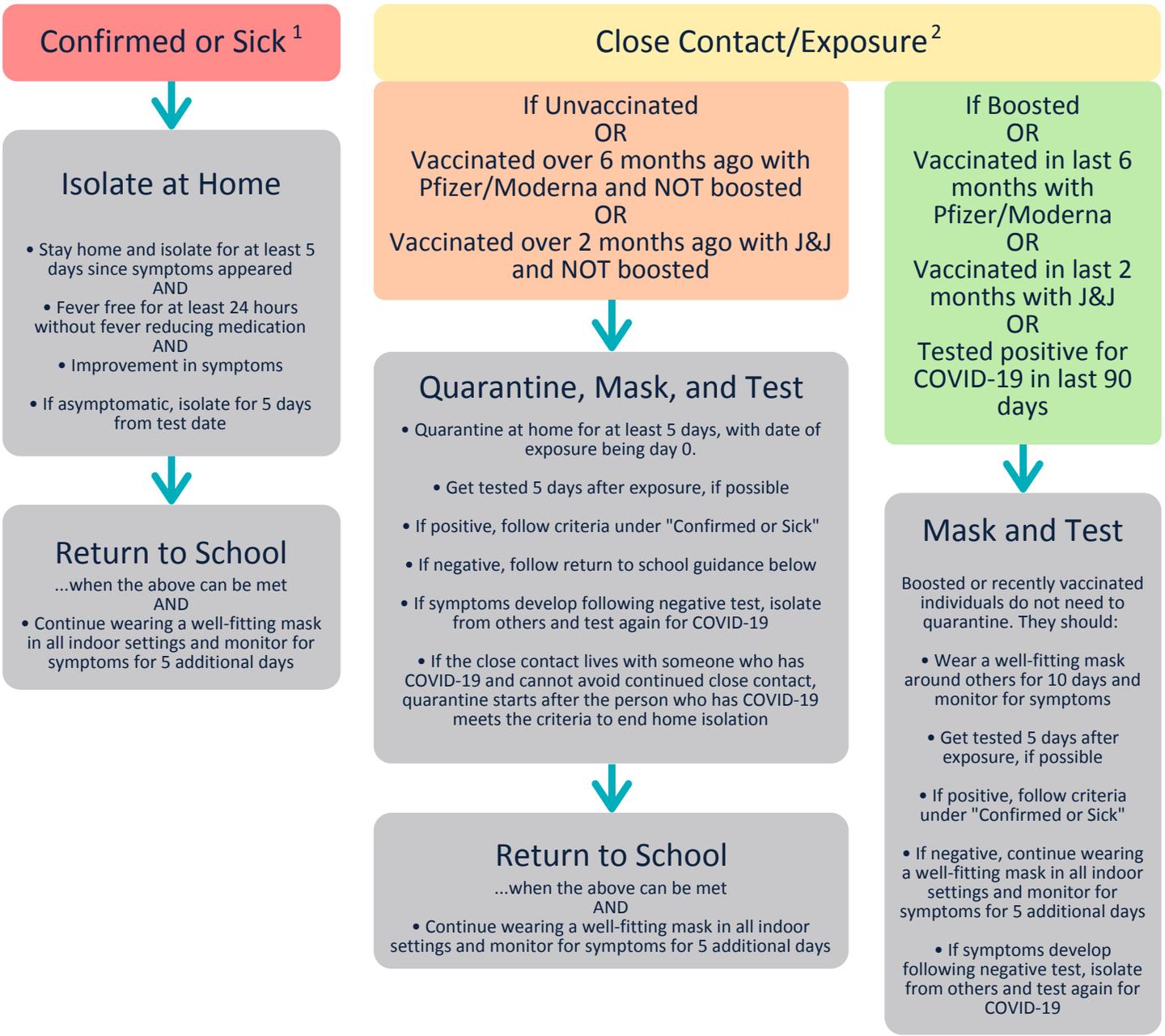




COVID-19 School Decision Tree

This guidance is based on CDC and DCPH guidelines and serves to help staff and school nurses understand various situations that may occur in the school setting. All reports of students, staff, and faculty with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 should be reported to DCPH. Everyone two years or older not fully vaccinated, and those who are immunocompromised, should wear a mask in indoor public places. If fully vaccinated, to maximize protection and prevent possibly spreading COVID-19 to others, wear a mask indoors in public if in an area of substantial or high transmission.



1. If an individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing stay at home period, the individual must either (a) obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or (b) obtain a negative molecular (PCR) or antigen test conducted by a healthcare provider.

2. Close contact is defined as:

- a. being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or
- b. being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes over a 24-hour period;

3. Either (a) or (b) in footnote 2 above defines close contact if it occurred during the infectious period of the lab-confirmed case, defined as two days prior to symptom onset to 5 days after symptom onset. In the case of asymptomatic individuals who are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, the infectious period is defined as two days prior to the confirming lab test and continuing for 5 days following the confirming lab test.

4. Exception to (b): In the K-12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes student who within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time.