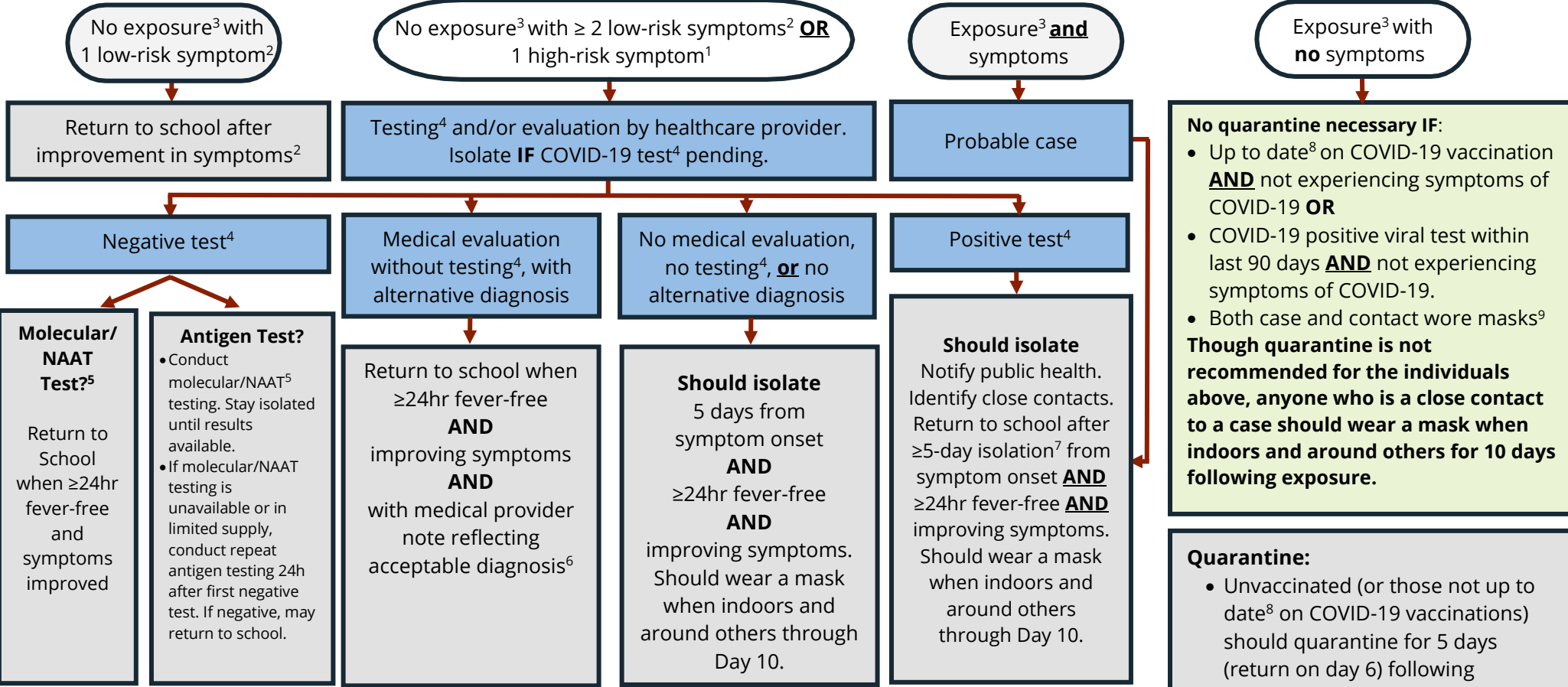


**Public Health COVID-19 Return to School Recommendation Support Algorithm**  
 Symptoms of COVID-19 may include: **new cough, difficulty breathing, loss of taste or smell, fever (>100.4°F)<sup>1</sup>, chills, congestion/runny nose, sore throat, headache, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, muscle pain, fatigue<sup>2</sup>**



**<sup>1</sup> High risk symptoms**  
<sup>2</sup> **Low risk symptoms** not due to chronic conditions such as allergies, migraines, etc.  
<sup>3</sup> Exposure defined as within 6 feet of a case for cumulative total of ≥15 minutes over 24-hr period.  
<sup>4</sup> **Test** refers to diagnostic tests (such as PCR or antigen) performed at home or by a healthcare provider/laboratory. Antibody tests are not approved for return to school.  
<sup>5</sup> **Molecular/NAAT** tests include PCR tests and isothermal NAAT tests.  
<sup>6</sup> Examples of acceptable diagnoses would include urinary tract infection, strep throat confirmed by positive strep test, rash from poison ivy, etc. Diagnoses of respiratory and viral conditions such as upper respiratory tract infection (URI), pneumonia, pharyngitis without positive strep test, viral illness, etc. **DO NOT** exclude the diagnosis of COVID-19 and **DO NOT JUSTIFY RETURN TO SCHOOL.**  
<sup>7</sup> Consult CDC guidance if severely ill or immunocompromised.  
<sup>8</sup> Someone is considered up to date on their COVID-19 vaccination if they are a) ages 18 or older and have received all recommended vaccine doses, including boosters, and additional primary shots for some immunocompromised people, or b) ages 5-17 years and completed the primary series of COVID-19 vaccines.  
<sup>9</sup> Exposed individuals are not recommended to quarantine if both they and the case wore well-fitting masks throughout the exposure. The exposed individual must continue to wear a mask following exposure. Testing is recommended on day 5 or later. Isolate immediately if symptoms develop or a positive test result is received. This applies to teachers/staff/other adults, not just students.

**No quarantine necessary IF:**

- Up to date<sup>8</sup> on COVID-19 vaccination **AND** not experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 **OR**
- COVID-19 positive viral test within last 90 days **AND** not experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.
- Both case and contact wore masks<sup>9</sup>

**Though quarantine is not recommended for the individuals above, anyone who is a close contact to a case should wear a mask when indoors and around others for 10 days following exposure.**

**Quarantine:**

- Unvaccinated (or those not up to date<sup>8</sup> on COVID-19 vaccinations) should quarantine for 5 days (return on day 6) following exposure.
- If feasible, get tested on Day 5.
- If without symptoms, and negative test result (or no testing if testing unavailable), return to normal activities. Wear a mask when around others through Day 10.

**If symptoms develop:**

- Isolate and obtain test<sup>4</sup>.

**01/04/22 Changes:**  
 Updated isolation and quarantine timelines to align with CDC guidance