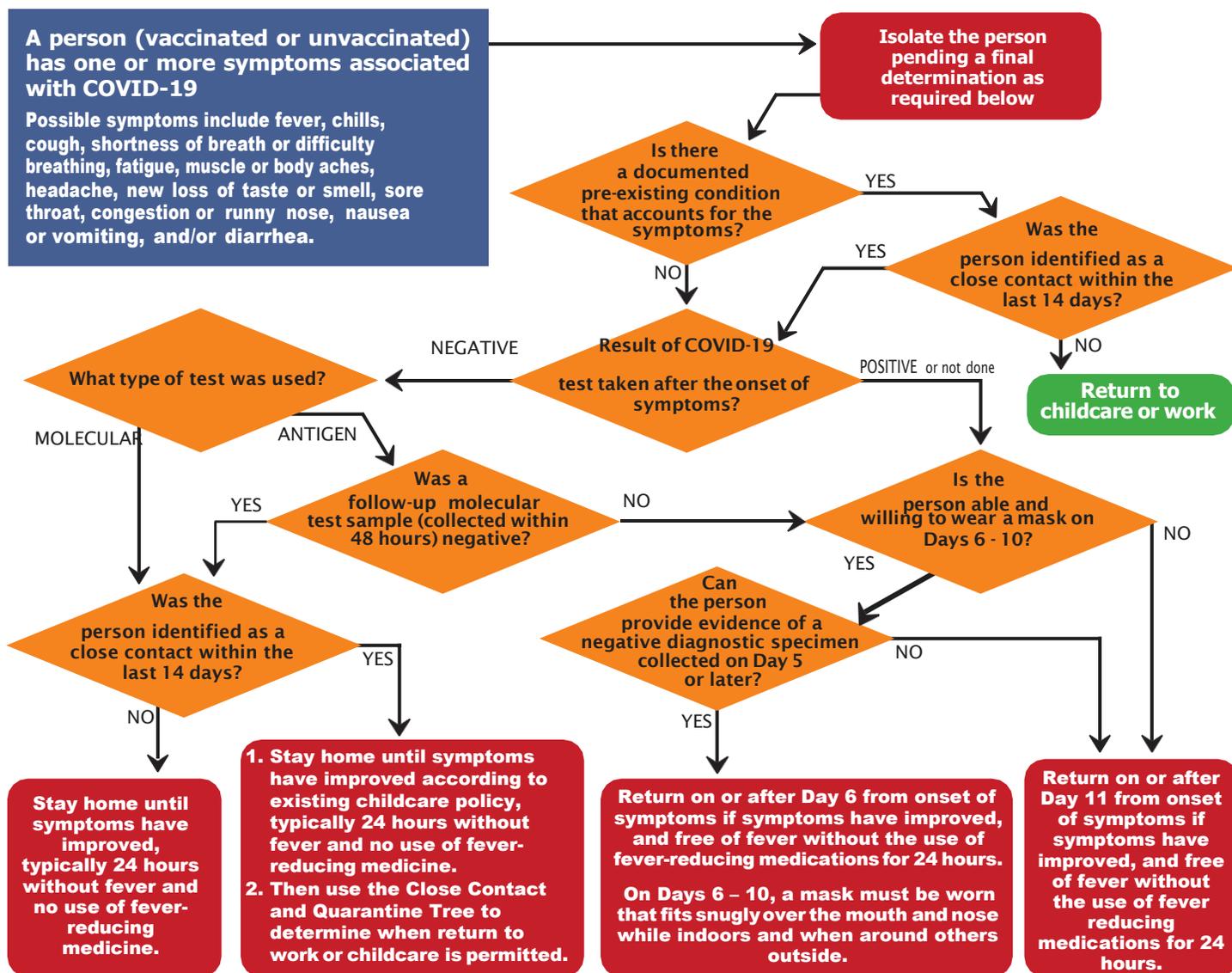


COVID-19 Decision Trees for Childcare

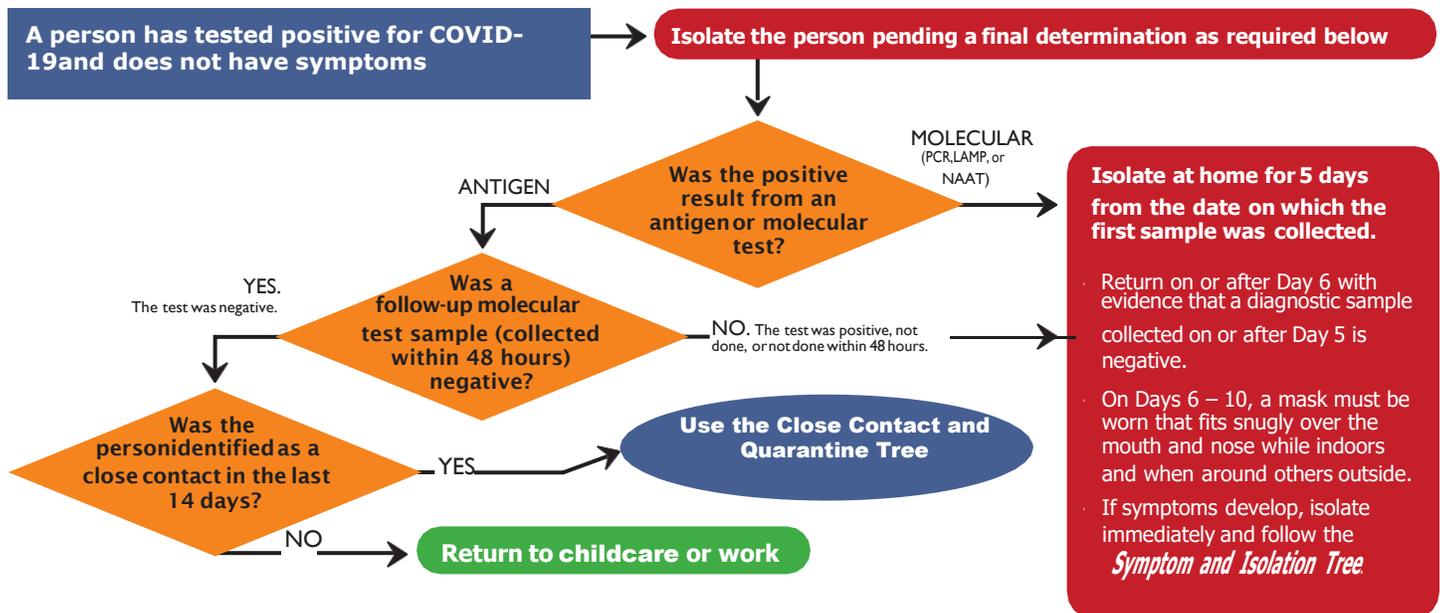
If the person...

- **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 Tree**

Symptom and Isolation Tree



Asymptomatic Positive Tree

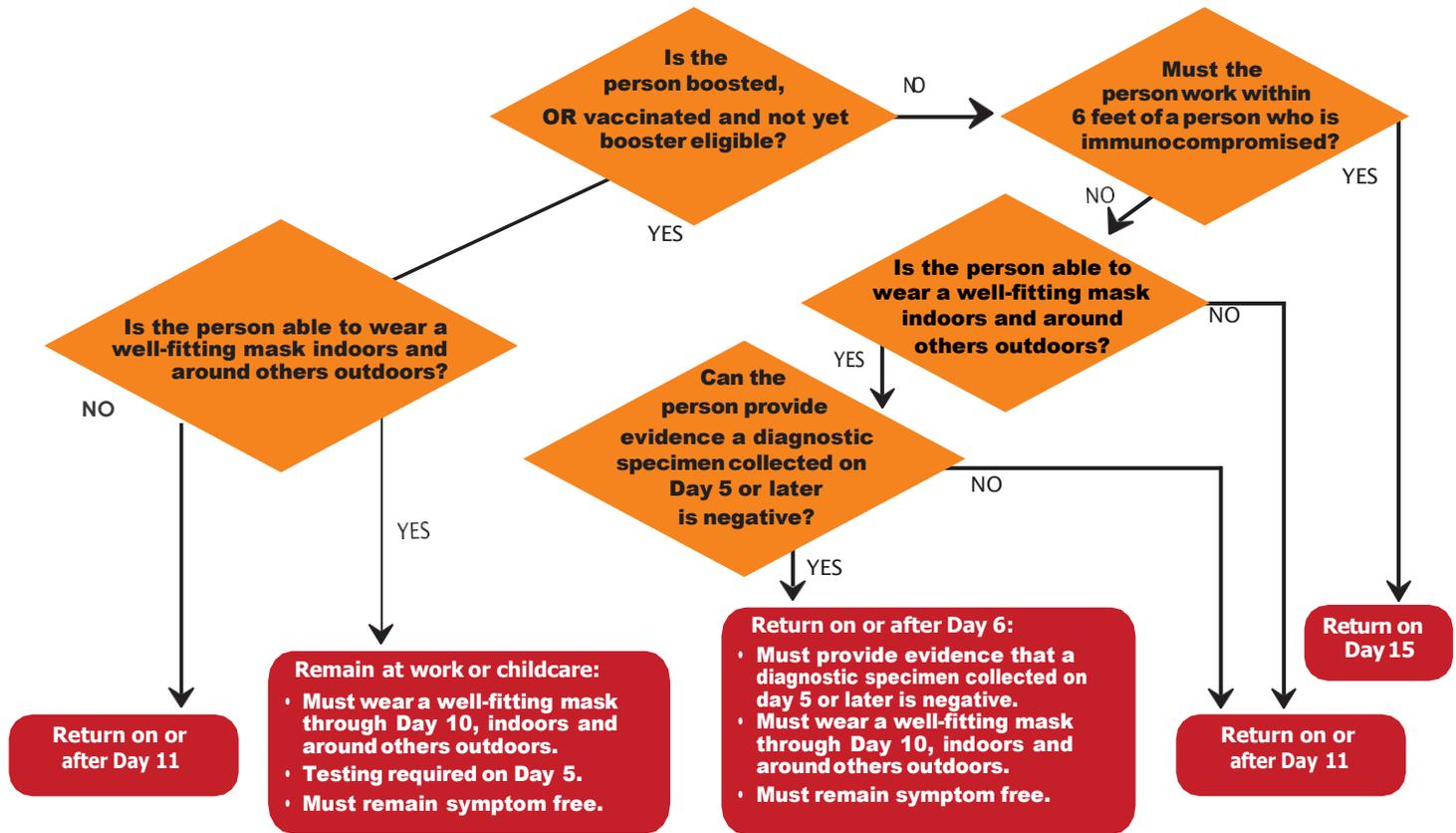


Other Notes on Quarantine and Isolation

- **Persons returning to work or care prior to day 11 must wear a well fitted mask and maintain 6 feet of distance from others to the maximum extent possible through day 10. In addition: Those returning from quarantine must be symptom free. If a person under quarantine develops symptoms, they must follow the symptom/isolation tree and seek testing, if not already performed. Those returning from isolation must be fever free for 24 hours prior to return (without having to take fever reducing medication) and other symptoms must be improving.**
- **A negative test on day 5 or later is required for early release from both isolation and quarantine. This result must be received prior to returning to work or childcare. If the person is unwilling or unable to adhere to the testing requirement, or any other requirement, the person must be excluded for a full 10-days.**

Close Contact and Quarantine Tree

NOTE: Per revised CDPH guidance, "unvaccinated" includes persons who have been previously infected with SARS-CoV-2, including within the last 90 days, and those who are partially vaccinated.



Test Types By Situation

Situation	Appropriate Test Types
Return from quarantine before Day 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antigen • PCR or other NAAT
Return from isolation before Day 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antigen is recommended because it is less likely to detect the virus beyond a person's contagious period. • PCR or other NAAT are acceptable.
Person with symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antigen is acceptable, but if a person with symptoms receives a negative result from an antigen test, confirmation with a PCR or other NAAT is necessary to accept the negative result if PCR or other NAAT

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 had COVID-19.

- When calculating quarantine period, last date of contact with the positive case is day "0"

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

- With symptoms is 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.
- When calculating isolation period, date of symptom onset, or test collection date (if no symptoms) is day "0"

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

A "close contact" is a person who has contact with a COVID-19 positive person that occurs anywhere between 2 days before the positive person's symptoms began (or, for asymptomatic cases, 2 days prior to test specimen collection), and until the positive person is no longer required to be isolated, and where they:

1. Were within 6 feet of a COVID-19 positive person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24- hour period; or
2. Had unprotected contact with the body fluids and/or secretions (including, but not limited to, being coughed on or sneezed on, sharing utensils, or drinking out of the same container) of a COVID-19 positive person."

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

Workers are not required to quarantine if they have completed their primary vaccine series and a booster dose, or if they have completed their primary series and are not yet eligible for a booster. It is also recommended that workers who are exempt from quarantine test on day 5. All others, including workers who have recovered from COVID-19 within the last 90-days are required to quarantine following close contact. If symptoms occur in anyone (student or worker) during quarantine (even people who are fully vaccinated, and those who have already had COVID-19 in the preceding 90 days), they are required to isolate immediately and follow up with a health care provider.

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 10-20 days (5-10 day isolation period + 5-10 day quarantine, with the last day of isolation being the contact's last day of exposure). If the positive case meets all criteria to end isolation on day 6, day 5 can be used as the contact's last day of exposure. If the contact qualifies for a 5-day quarantine period, the period may be as short as a 10-day period (5 day isolation period + 5 day quarantine period). 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?

No, 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, the local public health orders, pertinent executive orders, and answers received directly from the CDPH. CDPH has allowed for childcare facilities serving school age children and located on K-12 campuses, to follow K-12 guidance. It is anticipated more changes will follow over time. Preschools on K-12 campuses must continue to follow this childcare guidance.

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.

Frequently Asked Questions continued . . .

7. How should childcare **manage eating and drinking for students** who return from isolation before Day 11?

Individuals (staff and children) who return from isolation before Day 11 are required to wear a mask that fits snugly over their nose and mouth indoors, and outside when they are within 6 feet of others on Days 6 – 10 from the onset of their symptoms. Childcare should make arrangements for students to eat and drink outside with physical distancing.

8. When does it make sense to **confirm an antigen test with a PCR test**?

When the person's symptoms don't match the antigen test results.

- A symptomatic person with a negative antigen test should isolate until confirmatory results are available.
- An asymptomatic person with a positive antigen test should also isolate until confirmatory test results are available.

9. Why is it **still necessary to use PCR tests to confirm discordant antigen results**?

A recent revision of the CDPH testing guidance suggested that antigen test results do not need confirmation provided that clinical assessment of the person's symptoms was consistent with antigen test results or modified if there was a "high-risk" exposure, but a list of concerning symptoms and high-risk exposures was not provided. In the absence of this information, the County recommends that childcare continue to follow the recommendations on testing described in the decision trees.

10. Can **home testing** be used to satisfy testing requirements?

The CDPH Over-The-Counter (OTC) testing guidance allows at-home tests to be used to end isolation and quarantine, and encourages childcare to establish requirements for verification of the test results. The guidance suggests:

- Use of a digital (app-based) platform for test verification, which often includes scanning barcodes; these are available for certain brands of self-tests.
- Having parents write the name and date of the child that was tested on the test card results and requiring them to send a picture of the card to the request return.
- Create an attestation form and require signature declaring that the test specimen was obtained from the individual represented on the form, including the date the specimen was collected, and that the test was processed according to the test kit instructions.

11. What are the requirements if a person **tests positive but has no symptoms**?

If the person remains asymptomatic, they are required to self-isolate for at least 5 days past the date on which the positive test was collected. (If the positive result is from an antigen test, a PCR test should be taken within 48 hours to confirm the result.) To return to childcare or work the person must wear a mask that fits snugly over their nose and mouth, indoors and within 6 feet of others outside on Days 6 - 10. If the person is unable or unwilling to do this, they must remain in isolation through Day 10.