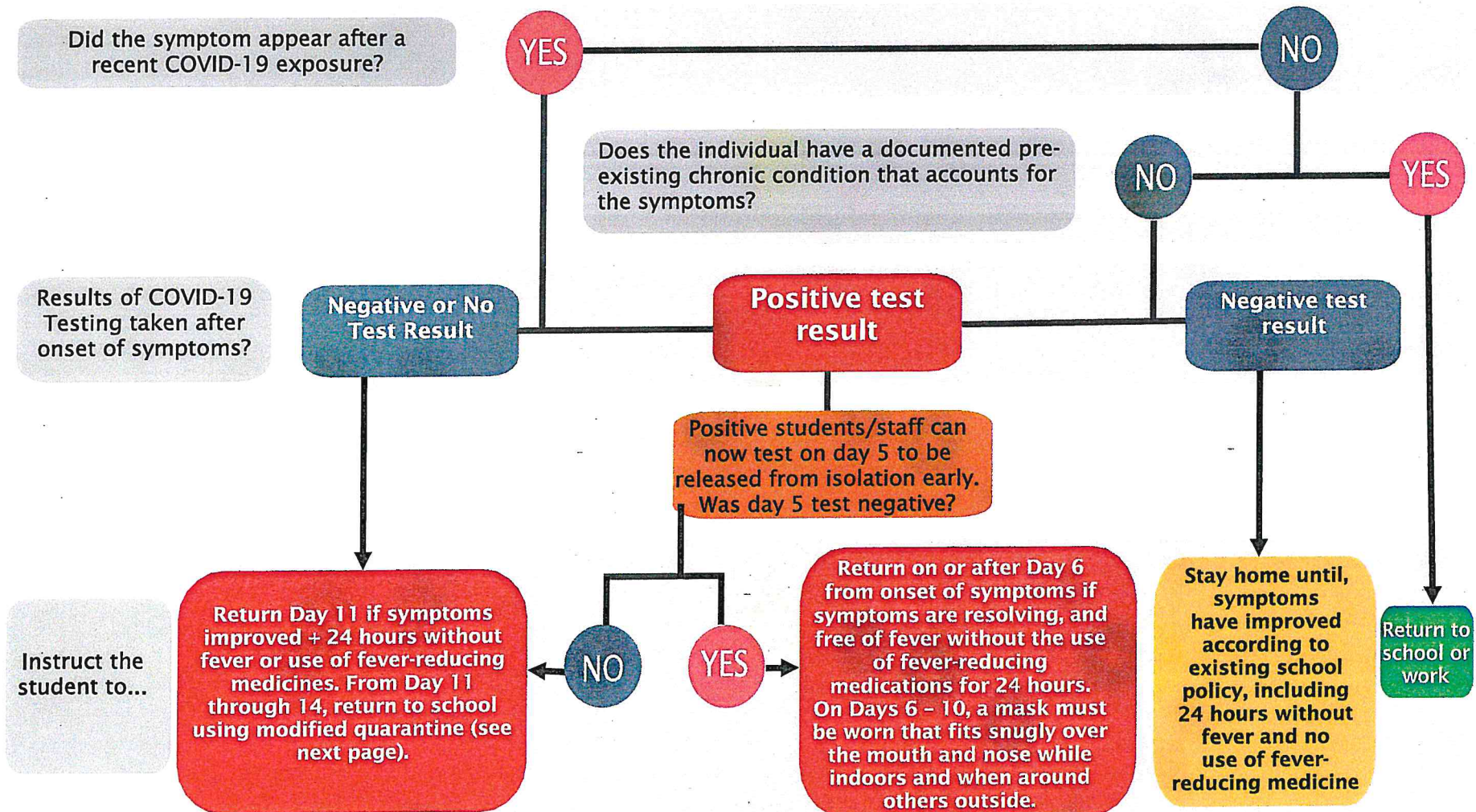# COVID-19 Decision Tree for Schools: First Path

Follow the appropriate path if a student or staff person is experiencing the following symptoms consistent with COVID-19:

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

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Individual (vaccinated and unvaccinated) with symptoms associated with COVID-19

Did the symptom appear after a recent COVID-19 exposure?

YES — **NO**

Does the individual have a documented pre-existing chronic condition that accounts for the symptoms?

NO — **YES**

Results of COVID-19 Testing taken after onset of symptoms?

Negative or No Test Result

Positive test result

Negative test result

Positive students/staff can now test on day 5 to be released from isolation early. Was day 5 test negative?

Instruct the student to...

Return Day 11 if symptoms improved + 24 hours without fever or use of fever-reducing medicines. From Day 11 through 14, return to school using modified quarantine (see next page).

NO — **YES**

Return on or after Day 6 from onset of symptoms if symptoms are resolving, and free of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications for 24 hours. On Days 6 – 10, a mask must be worn that fits snugly over the mouth and nose while indoors and when around others outside.

Stay home until, symptoms have improved according to existing school policy, including 24 hours without fever and no use of fever-reducing medicine

Return to school or work

Revised 1/10/2022

A person (vaccinated or unvaccinated) has tested positive for COVID-19 using any test type and does not have symptoms. **Confirmation testing is not recommended**

→

Isolate at home for 5 days from the date on which the first sample was collected.
· Return on or after Day 6 with evidence that a diagnostic sample collected on or after Day 5 is negative.
· On Days 6 – 10, a mask must be worn that fits snugly over the mouth and nose while indoors and when around others outside.
· If unable to test as required, return on Day 11.
· If symptoms develop, isolate immediately and follow the Symptom and Isolation Tree.

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Does the Person have symptoms?

NO

YES — Use the First Path above.

Is the person fully vaccinated OR have they recovered from COVID-19 within the last 90 days?

NO

YES — This person is exempt from quarantine.

Did the exposure occur in a school setting AND were both parties wearing masks during all contact within 6 feet of each other?

NO

YES

Will the student be able to participate in quarantine testing?

YES   **NO**   **NO**   **YES**

Instruct the student to...

Return on Day 8: Testing is recommended ASAP (within 24 hours), and required on or after Day 5.

Return on Day 11: Testing is not required but is recommended on or after Day 5, 6, or 7.

Modified (in school) Quarantine: With the restrictions described below, remain in school with negative test results taken ASAP (within 24 hours) of notification and on Day 5, 6, or 7.

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