COVID-19 Symptom & Quarantine
INTERIM Decision Forest for K-12 Schools

The Decision Forest is based on guidance from the California Department of Public Health and local recommendations from Sacramento County Public Health.
It is updated regularly to align with evolving guidance. Schools should ensure they are using the latest version and discard all previous versions.
The Decision Forest provides general guidance for common scenarios, but cannot account for every possible situation.
Schools requiring technical assistance can contact the SCPH Schools Team for guidance at **SCPHschools@saccounty.net**.

TREE #1: STUDENT OR STAFF WITH SYMPTOMS

Please Note: If an individual tested positive for COVID-19 in the previous 90 days, please proceed to Tree #5.

Student or staff has any of the following **NEW** symptoms:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Exclude from school.

EITHER

Test* for COVID-19.

Receive an **alternative named diagnosis** from a health care provider.

If no test or alternative diagnosis, **exclude** for 10 days from symptom onset. May return on Day 11 if at least 24 hours have passed since fever and symptoms have improved significantly.

POSITIVE

NEGATIVE

May return to school if at least 24 hours have passed since fever and symptoms have improved significantly.

ISOLATION:
Individual must **isolate** at home.
Isolation can end **5 days** after symptom onset if:
at least 24 hours have passed since fever and symptoms have improved significantly
AND
individual tests negative (preferrably antigen) with specimen collected on or after **Day 5**.
If unable to test, choose not to test, or positive test on or after Day 5, individual may return 10 days after symptom onset (**Day 11**).

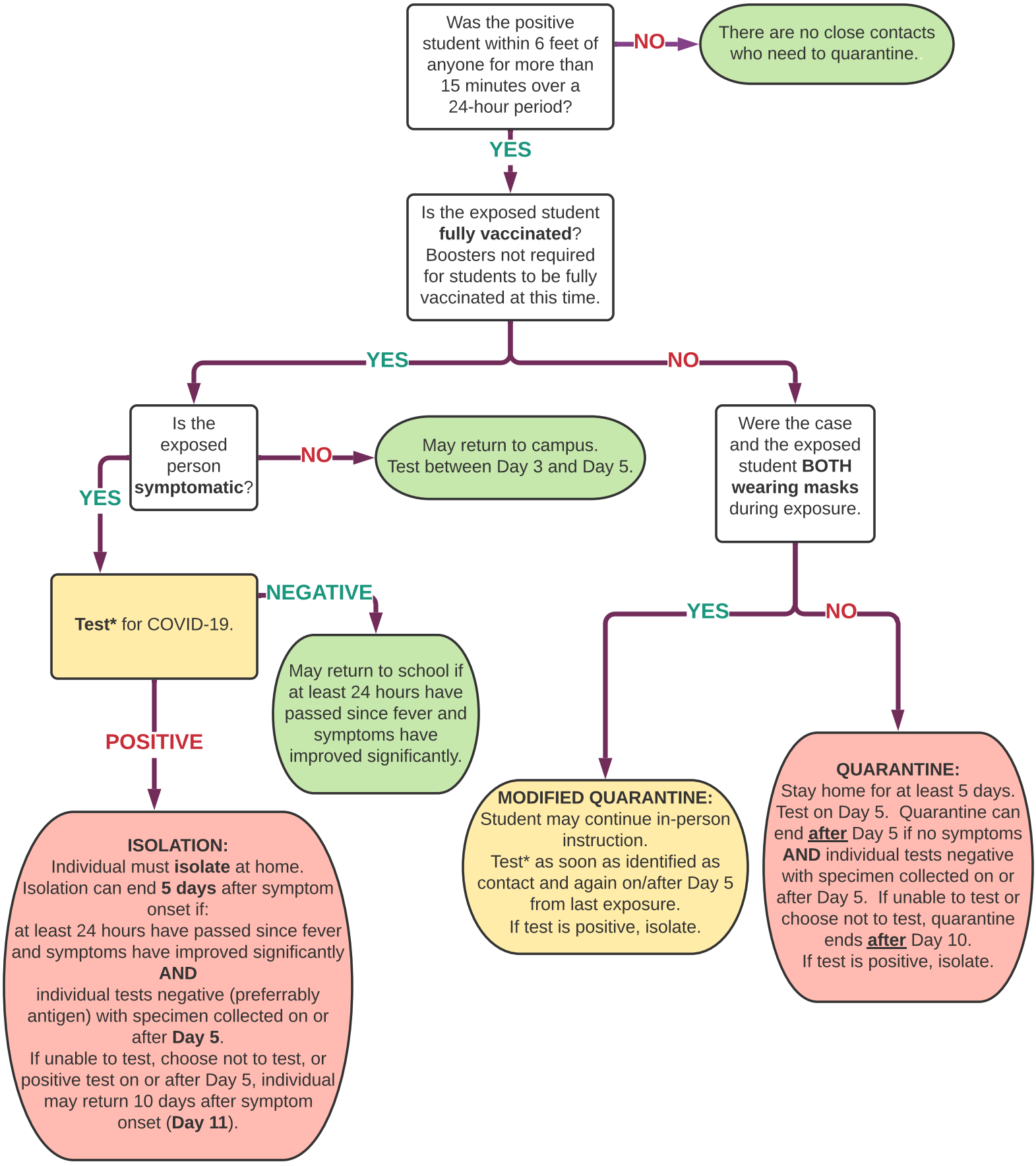
CONTACT TRACING:
Variable by school district based on CDPH Guidance for K-12 Schools.

CONTINUE TO TREE #2 FOR STUDENTS OR TREE # 3 FOR STAFF

* PCR, rapid antigen, and OTC home testing are acceptable testing methods. Home test kits used to exit isolation/quarantine should be accompanied with an attestation 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 instructions provided.

January 20, 2022

TREE #2: STUDENT EXPOSURE AT SCHOOL

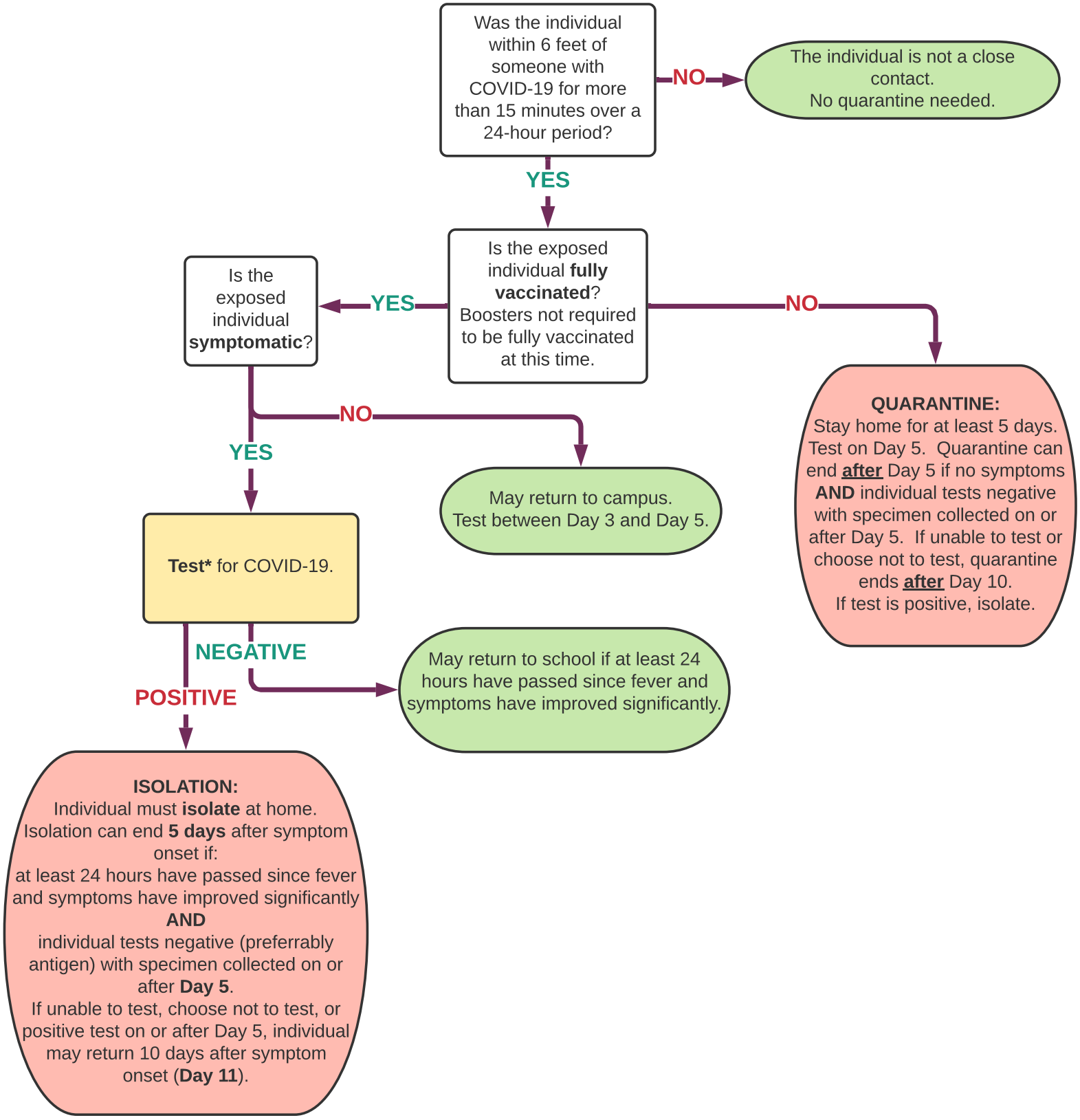


* PCR, rapid antigen, and OTC home testing are acceptable testing methods. Home test kits used to exit isolation/quarantine should be accompanied with an attestation declaring that the test specimen was obtained from the individual represented on the form, including the date the specimen was collected, and that the test was processed according to the instructions provided.

"Exposure at School" is for school settings in which students are supervised by school staff, including indoor or outdoor school settings and school buses.

January 20, 2022

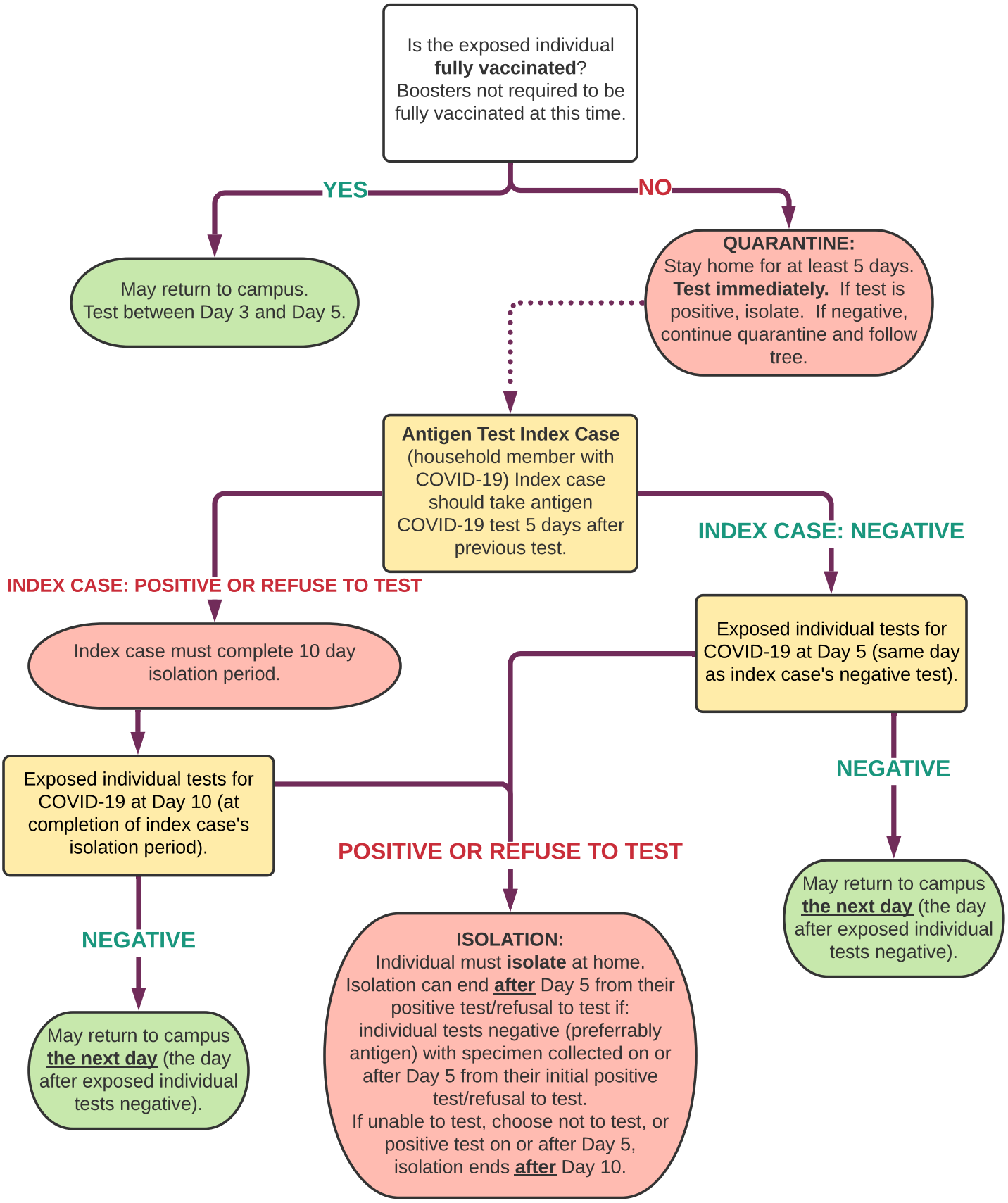
TREE #3: STUDENT EXPOSURE OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL OR STAFF EXPOSURE ON OR OFF CAMPUS



* PCR, rapid antigen, and OTC home testing are acceptable testing methods. Home test kits used to exit isolation/quarantine should be accompanied with an attestation 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 instructions provided.

January 20, 2022

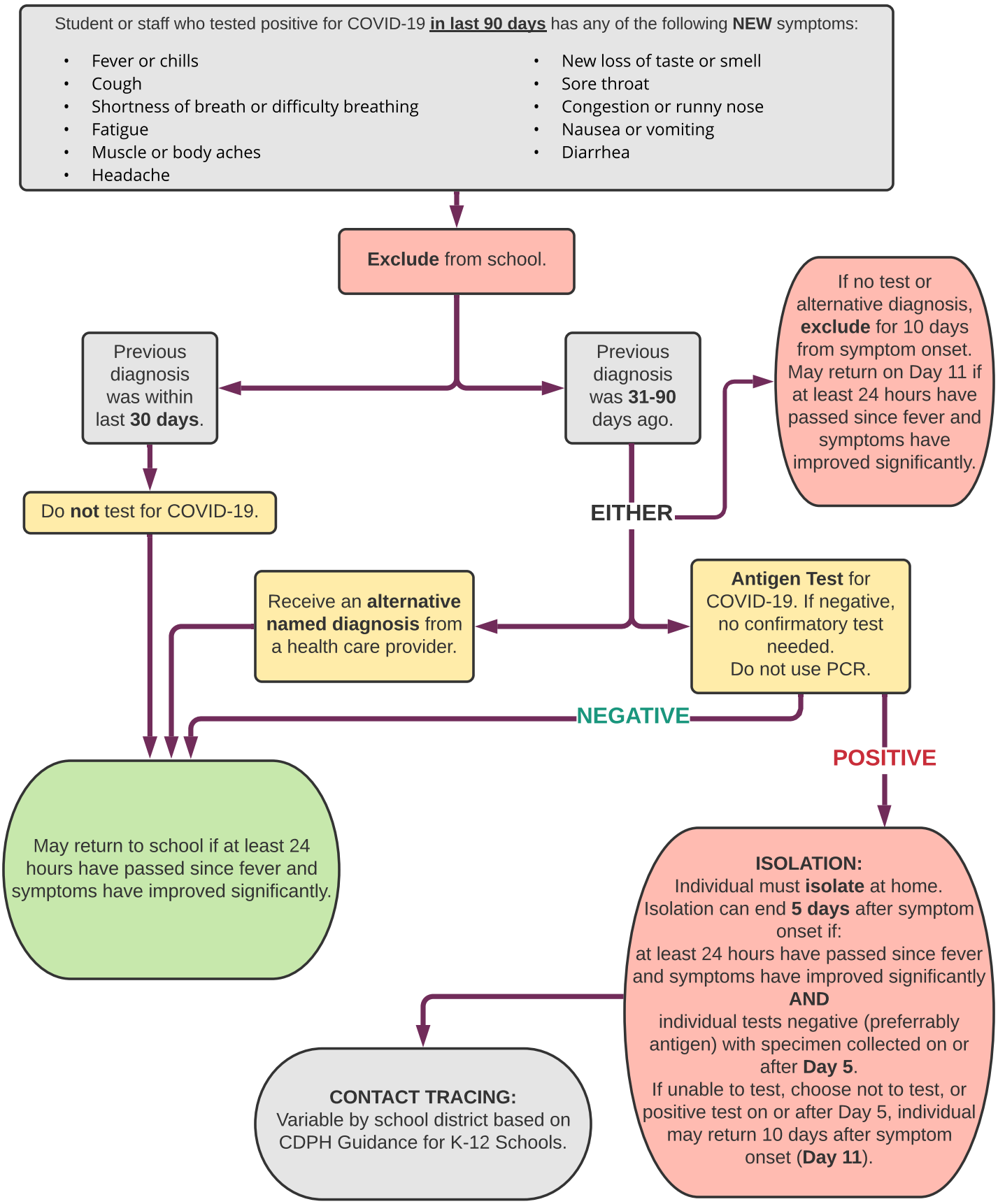
TREE #4: STUDENT OR STAFF LIVES WITH SOMEONE WHO TESTS POSITIVE



* PCR, rapid antigen, and OTC home testing are acceptable testing methods. Home test kits used to exit isolation/quarantine should be accompanied with an attestation 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 instructions provided.

January 20, 2022

TREE #5: PERSON WHO TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 IN PAST 90 DAYS



Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days may be exempt from surveillance testing.

January 20, 2022

SACRAMENTO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH
Promote • Prevent • Protect