

CUYAHOGA COUNTY  
BOARD OF HEALTH  
YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION

## COVID-19 Decision Tree for Schools

September 2020

This document is intended to be used as a decision-making guide when dealing with potential or confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the school environment.

**Contents include:**

- A glossary of terms
- General reminders
- A presentation of scenarios involving students and staff members

The decision tree is presented in two different ways for your convenience:

- One single sheet with all three scenarios together (recommended print size is 8 ½" x 14" or 11" x 17")
- Three separate sheets with one scenario per page

This guide contains information compiled by the Minnesota Department of Health.

**Contact us with questions**

[schools@ccbh.net](mailto:schools@ccbh.net)

216.201.2000

Visit [www.ccbh.net](http://www.ccbh.net) for more information about COVID-19

## Glossary of COVID-19 terms

### Asymptomatic

A person who has been confirmed with the illness but is not showing symptoms. Typically, the person feels well and would not know they were ill without a test.

### Symptomatic

A person who shows signs of illness such as cough, fever, runny nose, etc.

[Click to see the CDC list of COVID-19 symptoms](#)

### Close Contact

Someone who was within six feet of a positive person for 15 minutes or more. Also, this could be someone who was exposed multiple times within one day. Repeated short-term exposures may take place during athletic practices or other extracurricular activities.

### Incubation Period

The length of time it takes for someone to show symptoms of illness after being exposed to someone or something infectious. For COVID-19, the period is 2-14 days.

### Exclude/Exclusion

Exclusion occurs when someone is exposed to a symptomatic person who has not yet been tested and/or confirmed as a positive case.

### Isolation

This is for people who are ill. They must be separated from others so that they do not spread their illness.

It is best for the ill person to use a separate bathroom and their own set of towels, utensils and bedding. Be sure to regularly clean and disinfect commonly-touched surfaces and fixtures. Do not share food or drink with someone who is isolated.

### Quarantine

This is for people who are not ill but have been exposed to someone who is. Those who are placed in quarantine need to stay home because they could become ill during their quarantine period. In either instance, they run the risk of spreading illness to others if they do not remain in quarantine.

***\*Even with a negative result, those placed in quarantine must remain there for the entire 14-day period.***

## **The contact tracing process includes:**

- Providing completed contact tracing line list to CCBH
- Cleaning and disinfecting areas where the positive case was known to be
- Beginning a 14-day quarantine for close contacts

## **Reminders**

- Some COVID-19 symptoms may be similar to those of allergies, cold or flu
- Be sure to check with your healthcare provider concerning medical questions
- A healthcare provider may recommend additional testing or offer a different diagnosis
- Asymptomatic cases should isolate for 10 days from their testing date
- Contact CCBH with any questions

## **Find a testing location or a local community health center**

Visit the Ohio Department of Health's COVID-19 website at [www.coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://www.coronavirus.ohio.gov)

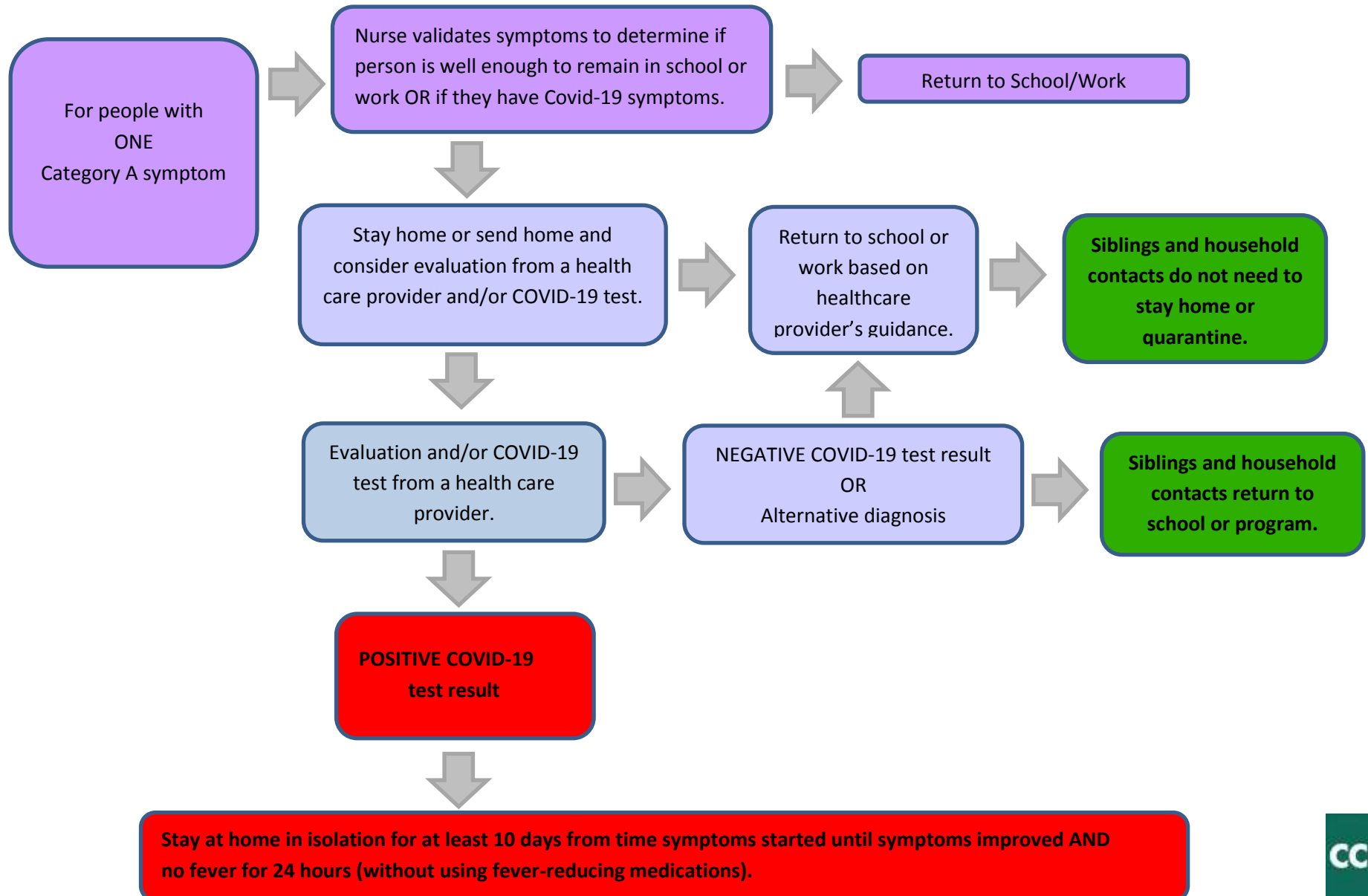
Scan this QR code



## COVID-19 School Scenario 1

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

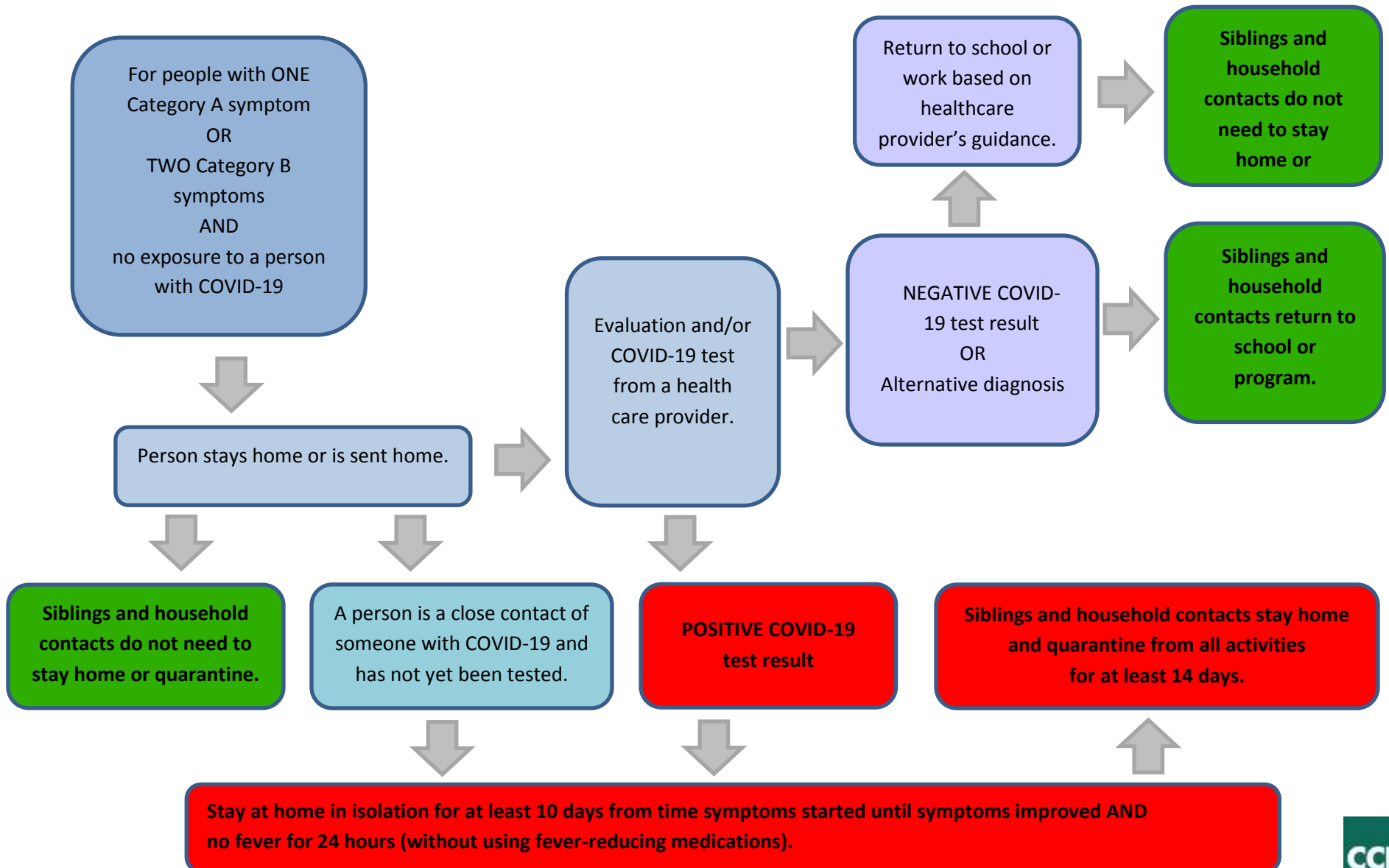
- Category A: fever greater than or equal to 100.4°F, new onset and/or worsening cough, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell.
- Category B: sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, chills, muscle pain, excessive fatigue, new onset of severe headache, new onset of nasal congestion or runny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



## COVID-19 School Scenario 2

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

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



### COVID-19 School Scenario 3

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

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

