

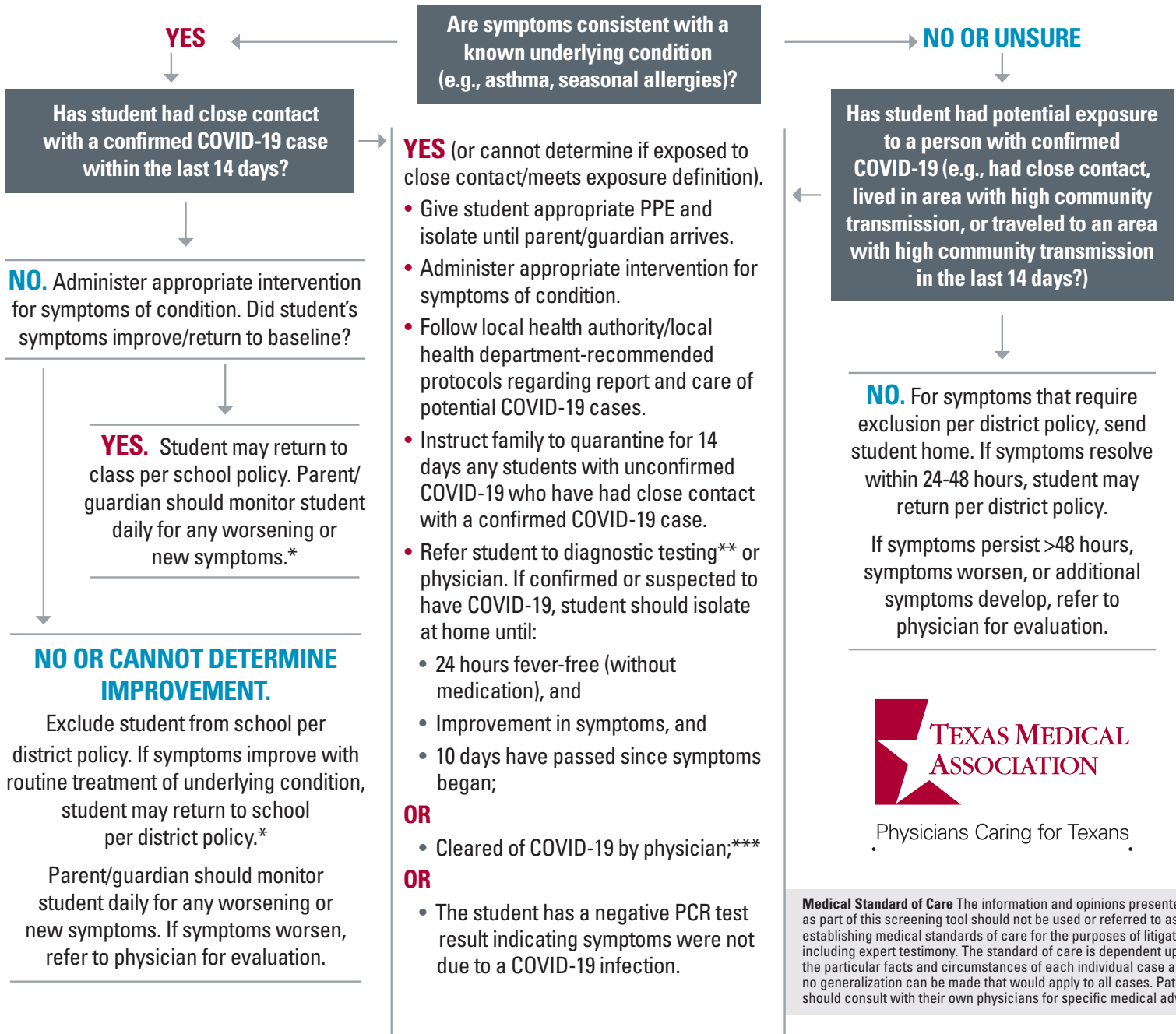
DECISION TREE TOOL FOR SCHOOL NURSES



STUDENT

presents with a possible COVID-19 symptom(s).

Try to isolate student during evaluation and wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).



*Coinfection of COVID-19 and another illness is possible. If symptoms worsen or new symptoms appear, refer student to testing or to physician for evaluation.

**This can be through a PCR or antigen test. For students without access to a physician, suggest testing locations listed on the [Texas Department of State Health Services website](#).

***A doctor's note or negative test should not be required to return to school. Some tests can yield false negatives if taken too soon, and individuals with confirmed COVID-19 can continue to test positive after the infectious period has passed. Antigen tests currently are not as reliable in determining a true negative.

DECISION TREE A TOOL FOR SCHOOL NURSES

COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS DISEASE



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This tool is largely adapted from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) [Screening K-12 Students for Symptoms of COVID-19: Limitations and Considerations](#). It does not replace local health guidance or state agency requirements and should complement sound clinical judgment.

COVID-19 Symptoms

- Mild illness is common in pediatric cases. Most present with symptoms of upper respiratory infection.
- Significant symptoms, which may affect students' ability to learn and put them at risk for spreading to others, might be, among others:
 - Fever (in absence of local guidance, defined as 100.4°F per CDC), taking into consideration physical exertion and outside temperature, which may affect temperature reading;
 - New uncontrolled cough that causes shortness of breath or difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergies/asthmatic cough, a change in baseline uncharacteristic of underlying illness, especially after treatment is administered);
 - New onset of severe headache, especially with fever;
 - Nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, or abdominal pain; or
 - Sore throat.
- Other possible COVID-19 symptoms are:
 - New loss of taste or smell,
 - New onset of fatigue,
 - Congestion/runny nose, or
 - New onset of muscle or body aches.

Exposure Definition

A student is considered to have been exposed if he or she:

- Had close contact[‡] with a person with confirmed COVID-19 within the last 14 days,
- Traveled to an area with high community transmission of COVID-19 identified by a federal, state, or local health authority (within the last 14 days), or
- Lives in areas of high community transmission as defined by the local health department or authority.

[‡] Per CDC, close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of a COVID-19 confirmed case for at least 15 minutes regardless if either was wearing a face covering.