

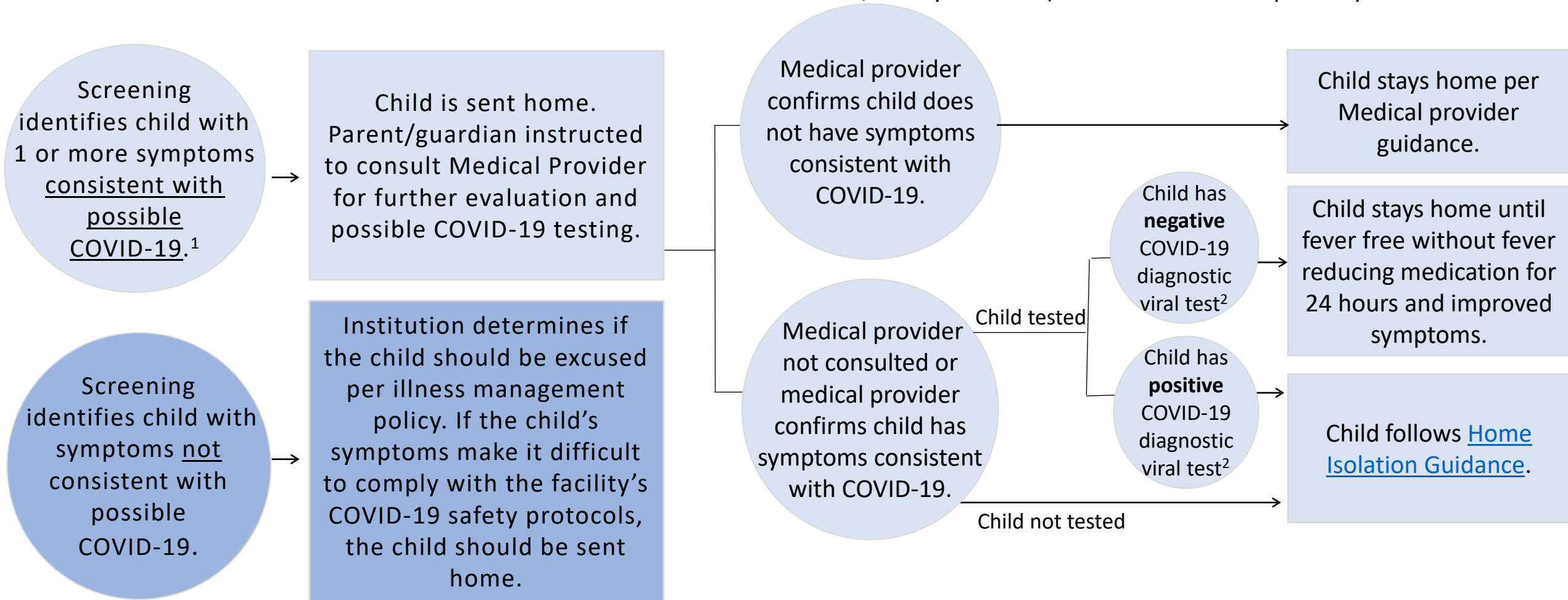
# **Decision Pathways for Symptoms in Early Care and Education Centers and TK-12 Schools**

*Los Angeles County Department of Public Health*  
*Updated: 8/15/2022*

# Decision Pathway for *Children* with Symptoms

# Decision Pathways for Children with Symptoms Prior to Entry<sup>1</sup> into an Educational Institution, regardless of vaccination status

<sup>1</sup>If child becomes unwell at the facility, place child in an isolation area (physically distant from attendant, ideally outdoors) and follow decision pathways described below.



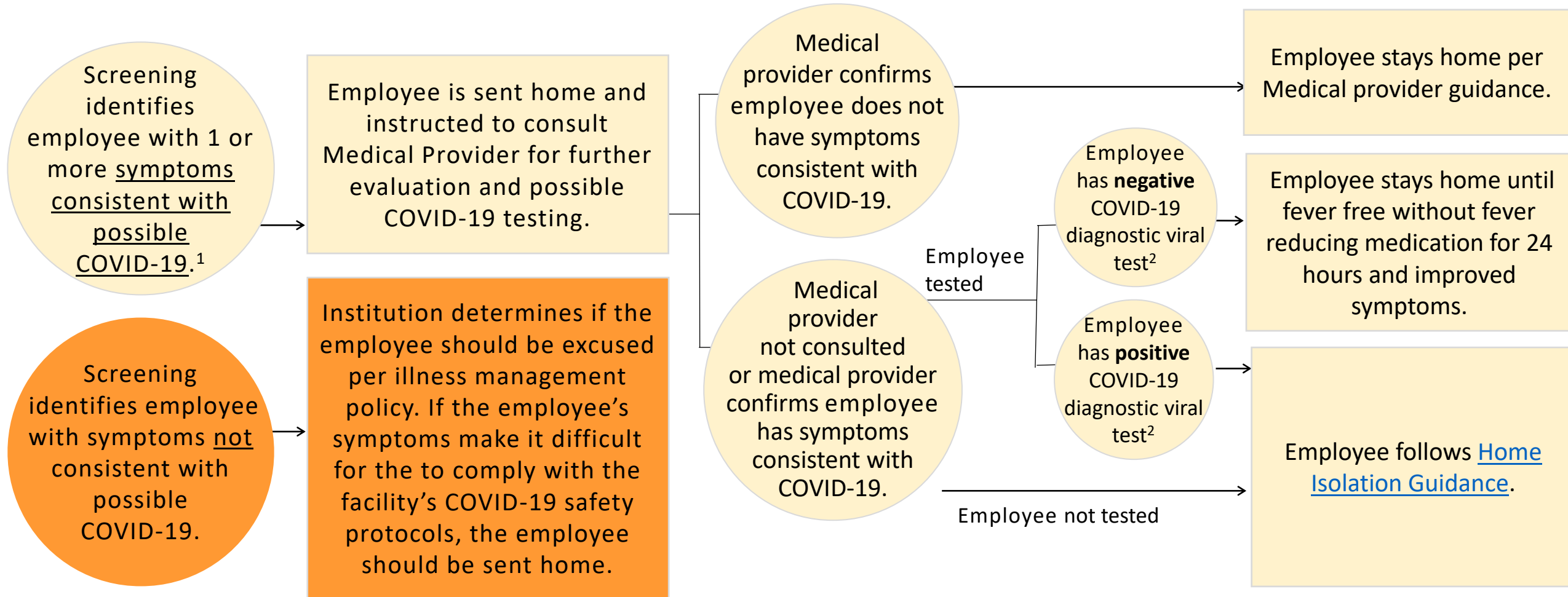
<sup>1</sup>Symptoms consistent with possible COVID-19 infection in children include: fever  $\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ ; new cough (different from baseline); vomiting or any new onset diarrhea. If the child's symptoms are not consistent with possible COVID-19 but there is still concern, evaluation of the child by a medical provider is recommended.

<sup>2</sup>COVID-19 diagnostic viral test includes Nucleic Acid Amplification Test, such as a PCR, or a rapid antigen test (including over-the-counter, or at-home, tests). PCR tests are considered the most accurate test for COVID-19, but either PCR or rapid antigen tests may be used.

## Decision Pathway for *Employees* with Symptoms

# Decision Pathways for Employees with Symptoms Prior to Entry<sup>1</sup> into an Educational Institution, regardless of vaccination status

<sup>1</sup>If employee becomes unwell at the facility, place employee in an isolation area (ideally outdoors, physically distant from attendant) and follow decision pathways below.



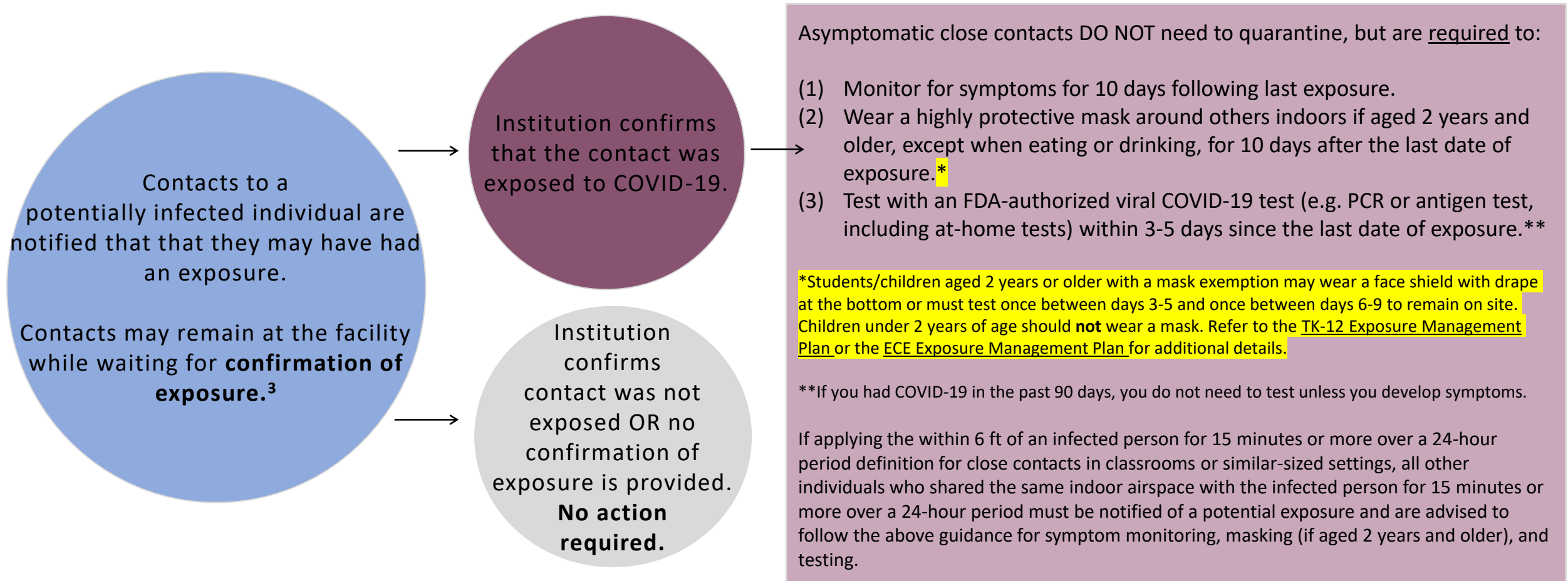
<sup>1</sup>Symptoms associated with possible COVID-19 in adults: fever  $\geq 100.4^{\circ}$  or feeling feverish (chills, sweating); cough; shortness of breath; new loss of taste or smell; fatigue; runny or stuffy nose; muscle or body aches; headache; sore throat; nausea or vomiting; diarrhea. If the symptoms are not listed but there is still concern, additional evaluation by a medical provider is recommended.

<sup>2</sup>COVID-19 diagnostic viral test includes Nucleic Acid Amplification Test, such as a PCR, or a rapid antigen test (including over-the-counter, or at-home, tests). PCR tests are considered the most accurate test for COVID-19, but either PCR or rapid antigen tests may be used.

**Decision Pathway for *Contacts (child/student or employee/staff) of a Potentially Infected Individual***

# Decision Pathways for Contacts to a Potentially Infected Individual at an Educational Institution

A **potentially infected individual** is an individual with  $\geq 1$  symptoms consistent with possible COVID-19<sup>1</sup>. In TK-12 and ECE settings, **close contacts of a potentially infected individual** are those that shared the same indoor airspace OR were within 6 feet of someone with COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period while they were infectious.<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup>**Symptoms** consistent with COVID-19 criteria differ for children and adults, see slide 3 for child criteria and slide 5 for adult criteria.

<sup>2</sup> There are different approaches for identifying close contacts in ECE, TK-12, and IHE settings. Refer to the exposure management plan corresponding to the setting for more details: [ECE](#), [TK-12](#), [IHE](#).

<sup>3</sup>**Exposure is confirmed** for a close contact to a potentially infected individual if the site receives notification that the potentially infected individual had a positive COVID-19 diagnostic viral test OR received a COVID-19 diagnosis from a medical provider.