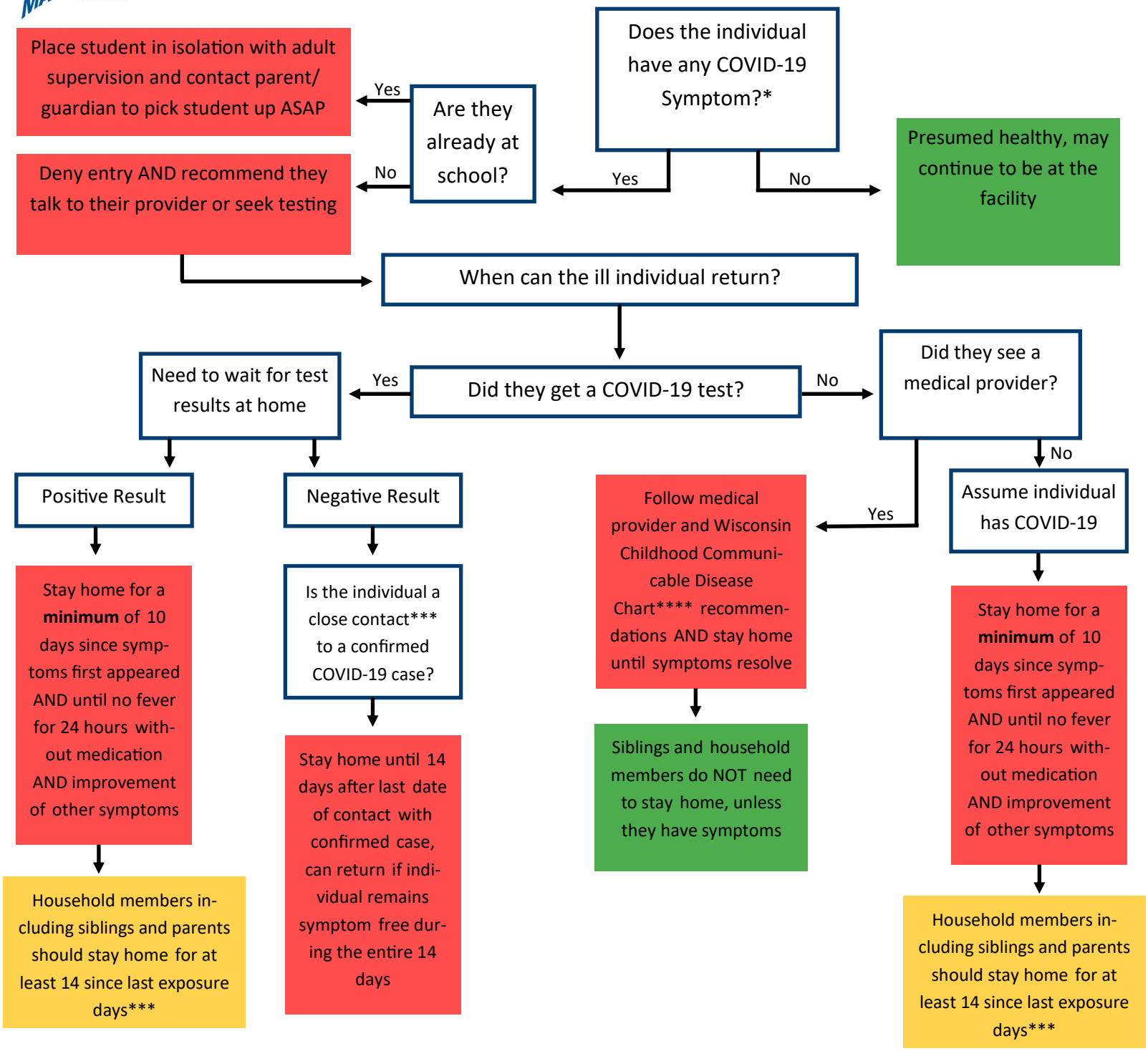
Decision Tree for Individuals with COVID-19 Symptoms

(School Staff/ Students & Child Care Programs)



*** COVID-19 Symptoms:** New onset cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fever (greater than 100.4), new or atypical headache, chills, new unexplained muscle pain, sore throat, recent sudden loss of sense of smell or taste, gastrointestinal symptoms of diarrhea, vomiting or nausea, congestion, or runny nose

**** Close Contact:** living with a person who is positive for COVID, coming into contact with the respiratory secretions of an infected person (coughed/sneezed on, shared glasses/food/personal items, etc.), having physical contact with an infected person, being within 6 feet of an infected person for more than 15 minutes regardless of masking

***** Close/Household Contacts Quarantine:** Quarantine period will vary based on circumstances, see DHS guidance. Consult with public health if you have questions.

****** WI Childhood Communicable Disease Chart:** https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p4/p44397.pdf

Decision Tree for Individuals with COVID-19 Symptoms

(School Staff/ Students & Child Care Programs)

For people who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19	• Send home or deny entry and reference exclusion criteria in this document to determine when they may return • COVID symptoms Include: New onset cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fever (greater than 100.4), new or atypical headache, chills, new unexplained muscle pain, sore throat, recent sudden loss of sense of smell or taste, gastrointestinal symptoms of diarrhea, vomiting or nausea, congestion, or runny nose • COVID-19 should be considered if there is no more likely explanation for the symptoms, such as a pre-existing medical condition
For people who received a laboratory test for COVID-19	**If the test result is positive** • Stay home for at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND until no fever for at least 24 hours without medication AND improvement of other symptoms • Siblings and household members also need to stay home for at least 14 days (coordinate with public health) **If the test is negative** • If tested because of being a contact: finish the remaining days left in the quarantine period • If no alternate diagnosis AND not a contact: stay home until symptom-free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication • If another diagnosis is given: follow criteria on WI Childhood communication disease wall chart or guidance of a provider • Siblings and household members do not need to stay home unless they are also having symptoms or on advice of a provider
For people with COVID-19 diagnosis without a lab test OR COVID-19 symptoms without medical evaluation	• No medical evaluation: Assume individual has COVID-19, stay home for at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND until no fever for at least 24 hours without medication AND improvement of other symptoms • Siblings and household members also need to stay home for at least 14 days (coordinate with public health)
For people with other diagnoses that explain symptoms OR healthcare provider says symptoms are connected to a preexisting condition	• Stay home until symptoms have improved. Follow specific return guidance from healthcare provider. See following chart for specific disease exclusion for school and child care centers https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p4/p44397.pdf • If symptoms are related to a pre-existing condition change or exacerbation, talk to a healthcare provider to determine next steps • Siblings and household member do not need to stay home unless they are also having symptoms or with advice of provider.