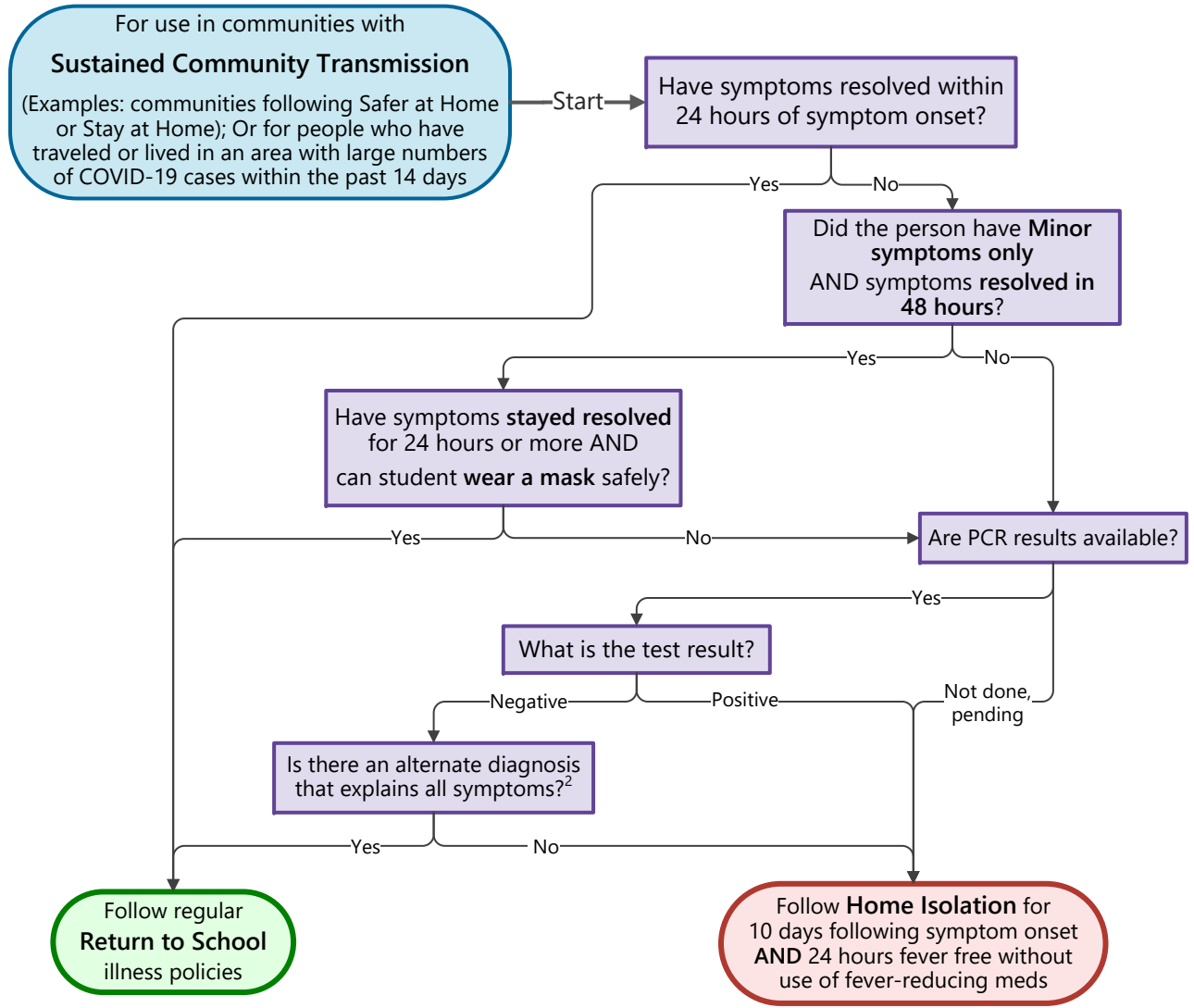
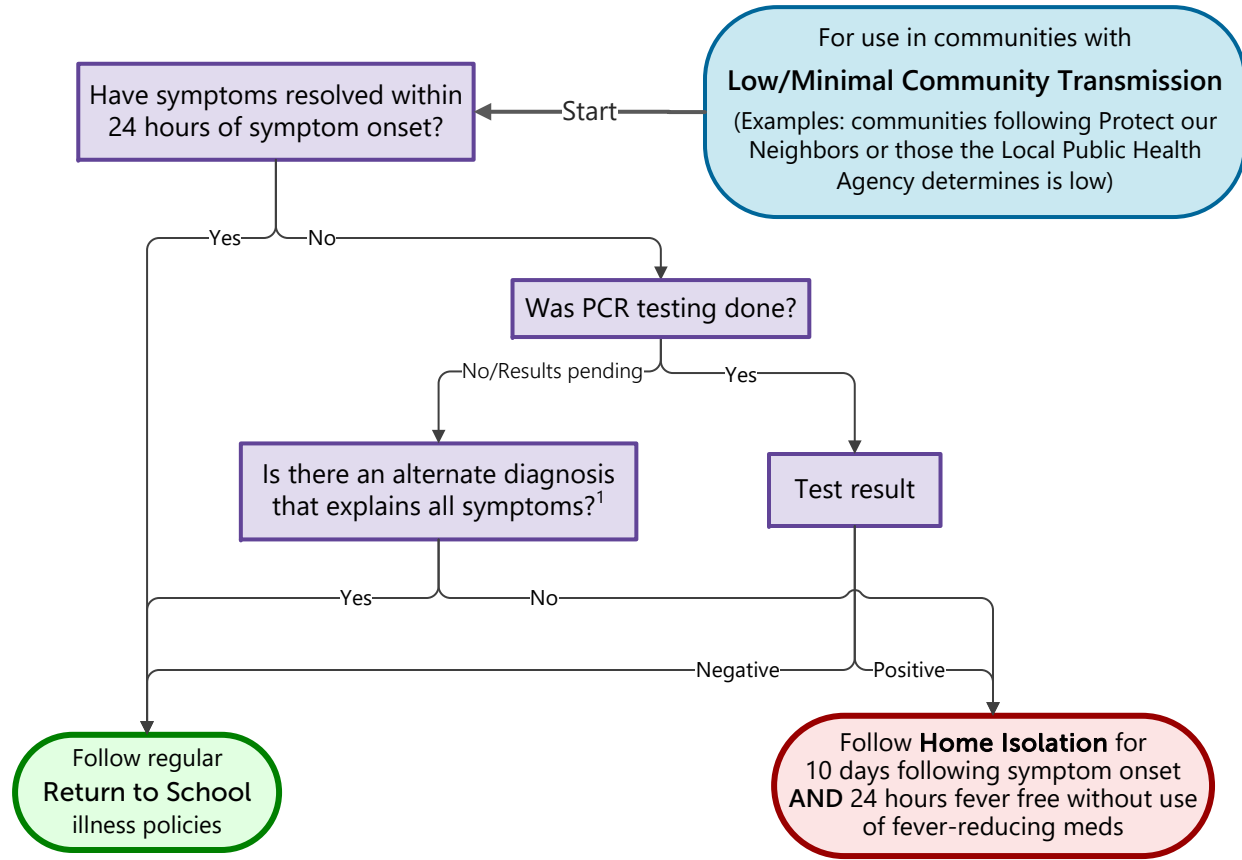


Return to School/Work Guidance: following a positive symptom screen for COVID-19



This decision tool is **NOT** intended for cases or close contacts of COVID-19. A confirmed COVID-19 case or close contact should follow public health quarantine or isolation instructions for return to school/work.



All students/staff with symptoms of COVID-19 should be tested. This tool can be followed while waiting for test results.

¹ In the setting of low community transmission, the following are examples of alternate diagnoses that should be considered, if the clinician believes that they explain the reported symptoms. However, if the patient has 2 or more major criteria, fever and any major criteria, known contact with a person with known or suspected COVID-19, or new loss of taste/smell, COVID-19 PCR should be pursued regardless of alternative diagnosis.
Positive laboratory test: influenza, streptococcal pharyngitis ("strep throat"), respiratory pathogen panel (for example pertussis), bacterial infection
Clinical diagnosis: worsening of known illness (such as asthma or seasonal allergies) with clear link to underlying disease

² In the setting of medium or high transmission, the following are examples of alternate diagnoses that should be considered if the COVID-19 PCR is negative.
Positive laboratory test: influenza, streptococcal pharyngitis ("strep throat"), respiratory pathogen, bacterial infection
Clinical diagnosis: worsening of known illness (such as asthma or seasonal allergies) with clear link to underlying disease

MAJOR SYMPTOMS		MINOR SYMPTOMS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feeling feverish, having chills Temperature of 100.4°F or greater Loss of taste or smell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New or unexplained persistent cough Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sore throat Runny nose or congestion Muscle or body aches Headache 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fatigue Nausea, vomiting Diarrhea