

# COVID-19 Clinical Testing Recommendations for Childcare and School Aged Children

Consider SARS-CoV-2 for patients with major symptoms or one or more minor symptoms. *Clinicians may elect to test with any low-risk symptom due to high clinical suspicion, community spread, etc.*

*These recommendations are subject to change as new research or guidelines are available from CDC or CDPHE.*

**While tests are pending, isolate the patient away from others until test results are received.**

**Critical Symptom:** New loss of taste or smell (pathognomonic positive COVID)

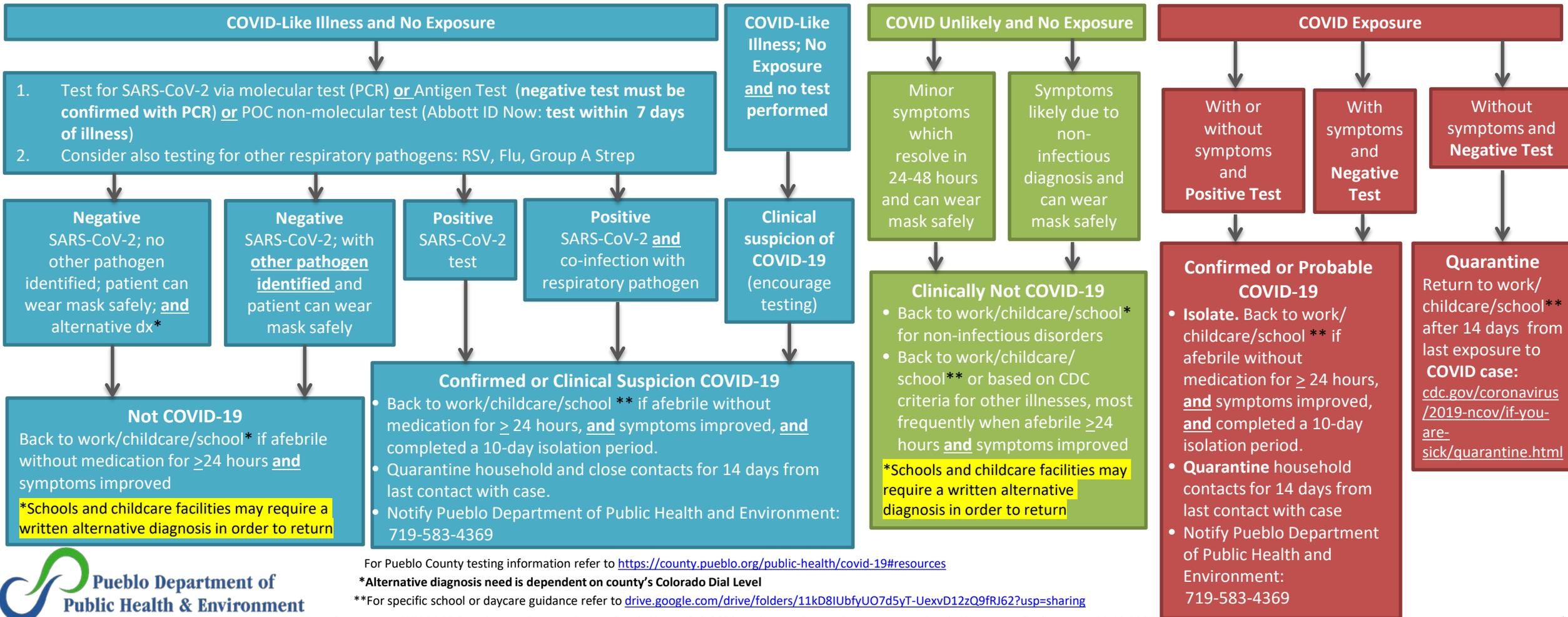
## Major Symptoms

Feeling feverish, having chills, Temp of 100.4 or greater;  
New or worsening cough; Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

OR

## Minor Symptoms

Sore throat; Runny nose or congestion; Muscle or body aches; Fatigue;  
Headache; Nausea/Vomiting; Diarrhea



For Pueblo County testing information refer to <https://county.pueblo.org/public-health/covid-19#resources>

\*Alternative diagnosis need is dependent on county's Colorado Dial Level

\*\*For specific school or daycare guidance refer to [drive.google.com/drive/folders/11kD8IUbfyUO7d5yT-UexvD12zQ9fRJ62?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/11kD8IUbfyUO7d5yT-UexvD12zQ9fRJ62?usp=sharing)

Prepared by WU PAARC, revised by Boulder County Public Health 9-8-2020; revised by Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment 11.19.2020

**Isolation:** staying home from work, school, and activities when a person is sick or diagnosed with COVID-19.

- Isolation lasts for at least 10 days after the onset of symptoms or if asymptomatic at least 10 days from their first positive test AND 24 hours after being fever-free without the aid of fever-reducing medication AND person shows an improvement of symptoms.
- In rare instances (for example, if a person was very sick or has certain medical problems), isolation may last 20 days.

**Quarantine:** staying home from work, school, and/or activities after a person was in close contact with someone with COVID-19.

- Quarantine lasts for 14 days (unless the person develops symptoms, then they will be put in isolation See above).
- Recommend those quarantined and exposed to COVID-19 get tested on Day 7 from exposure for the most accurate test results (negative tests cannot be used to release a person from quarantine).

**Close contact is defined as a person who:**

- was within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 (even if they did not have symptoms) for at least 15 minutes cumulative – even when both parties are wearing masks.
- provided care for someone who is sick or direct physical contact with someone with COVID-19.
- shared eating or drinking utensils or exposed to respiratory droplets with someone with COVID-19.

**Public Health Case Definitions (subject to change per CDPHE):**

**Confirmed:** Case who has tested positive using a molecular amplification test (such as PCR).

**Probable:** Meets clinical criteria\* AND epidemiologic linkage\*\* with no confirmatory laboratory testing for SARS-CoV-2. OR Has tested positive using an antigen test in a respiratory specimen, with report date on or after 8/17/2020 OR has a death certificate that lists COVID-19 disease or SARS-CoV-2 as an underlying cause of death or a significant condition contributing to death with no confirmatory laboratory testing performed for COVID-19.

**\*Clinical Criteria - Patient must have one of the following AND no alternative more likely diagnosis:**

- Two or more of the following symptoms: fever (measured or subjective), chills, rigors, myalgia, headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose OR Any one of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, new taste disorder OR severe respiratory illness with at least one of the following: Clinical or radiographic evidence of pneumonia or Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS).

**\*\*Epidemiologic Linkage - Patient must have one of the following in the 14 days prior to symptom onset:**

- Close contact with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 disease OR member of a risk cohort as defined by public health authorities during an outbreak.

**Point-of-care (POC) Antigen Testing in School Settings**

- Positive POC antigen tests should be treated as cases with appropriate isolation and contact tracing.
- **All POC tests, whether positive or negative, are reportable to public health** (<https://bit.ly/3lAR2b4>).
- Negative antigen tests should be confirmed with PCR testing before clearing a symptomatic student or teacher who is not a close contact to a case to return to school; **however**, there are considerations for when confirmatory testing may not be needed \*\*\*.
- No negative testing of any kind can clear a student or staff member who is quarantined to return to school (<https://bit.ly/32Z3ytw>); however, providers and local public health should continue to use their discretion to decide when a symptomatic individual with known COVID-19 exposure and a negative PCR test should be treated as a likely case for purposes of clinical treatment, isolation, and contact tracing. **However, negative testing in these circumstances still does not release the exposed individual from quarantine, despite the change in their case definition.**

**\*\*\*CDPHE Interim Guidance on when to confirm negative POC antigen test results (Ex: BinaxNOW) in community members not part of a serial testing program:**

**If all of the following conditions are met, confirmation of a negative antigen test with PCR is not needed (in all other circumstances, a negative must be confirmed with PCR).**

- No known exposure to a person with known or suspected COVID-19 (or part of an outbreak).
- No travel to an area with high incidence of COVID-19.
- Lives/works/attends school in a community with 2-week incidence <50 cases per 100,000 (this information is located at [covid19.colorado.gov/data](https://covid19.colorado.gov/data) under Incidence and Epi Curves).
- Experiencing minor symptoms only: sore throat; runny nose or congestion; muscle or body aches; headache; fatigue; nausea; vomiting; diarrhea.
- Antigen testing in the community should only be done in symptomatic individuals, ideally within five days of symptom onset; negative test results, regardless of confirmation, cannot end a person's quarantine early.