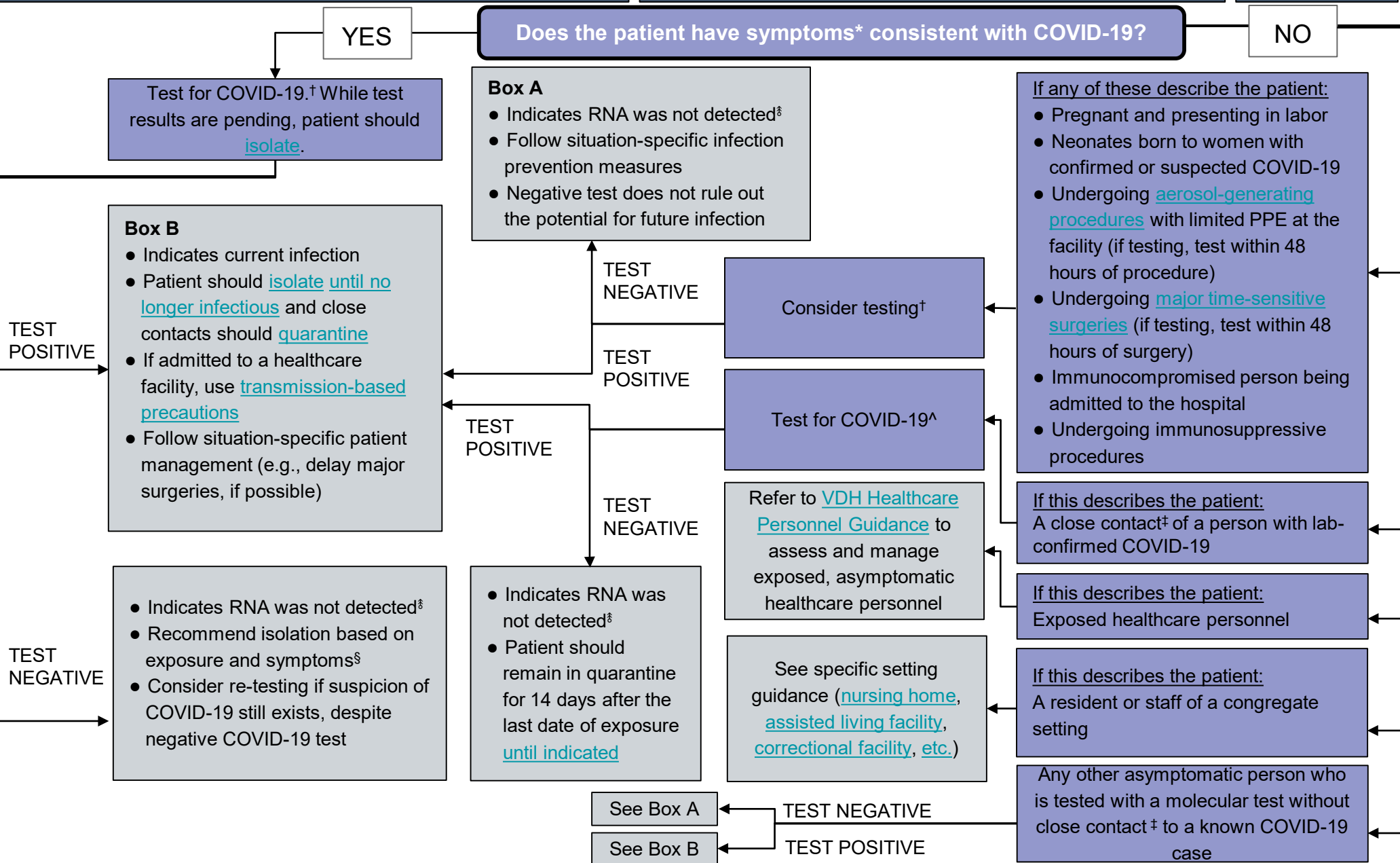


VDH COVID-19 MOLECULAR TESTING ALGORITHM

For healthcare providers to understand who to test and what recommendations to provide based on the results

October 29, 2020



Recommendations are based on [CDC guidance](#), [VDH Guidance](#), and [Infectious Diseases Society of America Guidelines on the Diagnosis of COVID-19](#).

* COVID-19 patients may present with a variety of [symptoms](#).

† For known specimen collection locations in Virginia, see [here](#). Serology testing can be used for public health surveillance or research purposes, but is not recommended for diagnosing current COVID-19 infection or making decisions about returning to work. All COVID-19 test results (positive and negative) must be [reported to VDH](#) within 24 hours.

^ If there is a known exposure, it is reasonable to test approximately one week after exposure based on the average incubation period and available evidence to date. If testing is not readily available for all close contacts, prioritize symptomatic close contacts or [those at increased risk for severe COVID-19](#).

§ If the person had a known exposure to someone with COVID-19, the person should continue to quarantine until 14 days after the last known exposure. If the person did not have a known exposure to someone with COVID-19, the person should isolate until at least 24 hours after symptoms resolve (if symptomatic) or follow protective measures in place in the community (if asymptomatic).

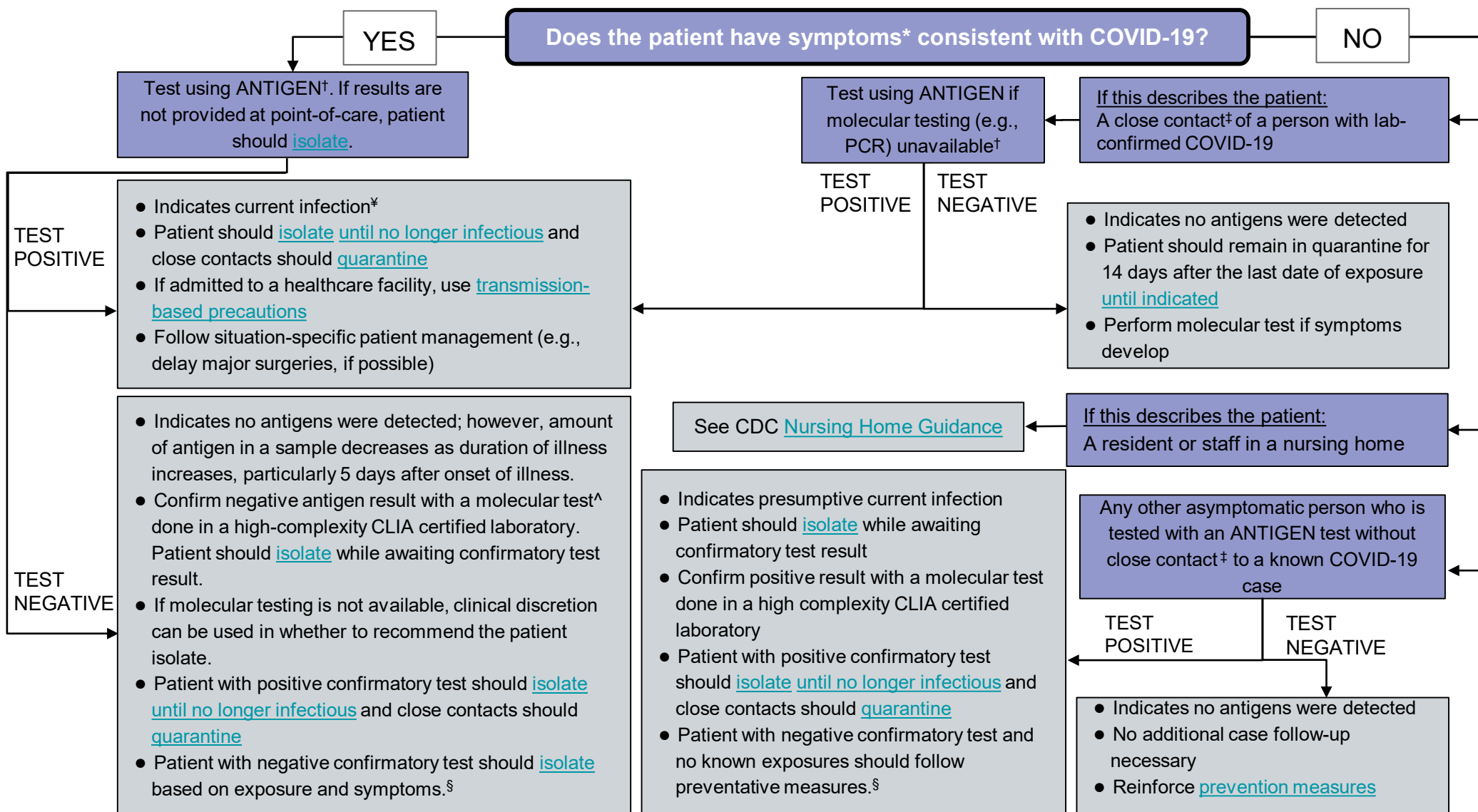
‡ For COVID-19, VDH defines close contact as being within six feet of someone known to have COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or longer over a 24-hour period, or having exposure to respiratory secretions from an infected person (e.g., being coughed or sneezed on, sharing a drinking glass or utensils, kissing), starting from two days before the person became sick (or two days before specimen collection if asymptomatic) until the person was isolated.

§&A negative molecular test result for SARS-CoV-2 means that at the time of collection, RNA from this virus was not present in the specimen above the limit of detection.

VDH COVID-19 ANTIGEN TESTING ALGORITHM

For healthcare providers to understand who to test and what recommendations to provide based on the results

October 29, 2020



Recommendations are based on [CDC guidance](#), [VDH Guidance](#), [Infectious Diseases Society of America Guidelines on the Diagnosis of COVID-19](#), [APHL's Considerations for Implementation of SARS-CoV-2 Rapid Antigen Testing](#), current FDA Emergency Use Authorizations for available tests, and [FDA FAQ](#).

* COVID-19 patients may present with a variety of [symptoms](#).

† Point-of-care (POC) tests must be performed at a CLIA-certified laboratory or testing site. More information can be found on the [VDH Office of Licensure and Certification website](#). All results (positive and negative) must be [reported to VDH](#) within 24 hours. If there is a known exposure, it is reasonable to test approximately one week after exposure based on the average incubation period and available evidence to date. If testing is not readily available, prioritize symptomatic individuals and asymptomatic close contacts [at increased risk for severe COVID-19](#)

‡ False positives can occur, especially in low prevalence populations.

^When confirming an antigen test result with a PCR test, the confirmatory PCR test should be performed in a high complexity CLIA certified laboratory. The follow-up specimen should be collected within 24 hours of the original test, if possible, and no more than 48 hours after the antigen test. Specimens collected more than 48 hours after the initial test may lead to discordant results

§ If the person had close contact with someone with COVID-19, the person should continue to quarantine until 14 days after the last known exposure. If the person did not have close contact with someone with COVID-19, the person should isolate until at least 24 hours after symptoms resolve (if symptomatic) or follow protective measures in place in the community (if asymptomatic).

‡ For COVID-19, VDH defines close contact as being within six feet of someone known to have COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or longer over a 24-hour period, or having exposure to respiratory secretions from an infected person (e.g., being coughed or sneezed on, sharing a drinking glass or utensils, kissing), starting from two days before the person became sick (or two days before specimen collection if asymptomatic) until the person was isolated.