

COVID-19: OCS Safe Reopening Plan 2021

September 4, 2021



Orangeville Christian School

We are more than a school; we are a community.

SAFE REOPENING PLAN FOR ORANGEVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL:

Greetings OCS Family!

The school year is upon us, and we are ready to get back at it! What a blessing it is to be back in the classroom in person this year. Amid very dynamic times, we take great comfort in knowing that our God is all knowing “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!” – Romans 11:33, and His plans are GOOD. We put our trust in Him as we present to you the Safe Re-Opening Plan for Orangeville Christian School.

Please note that this plan has been updated to reflect the most current guidance received by the Ontario Ministry of Education and in compliance with current Public Health guidelines.

OCS PROTOCOLS FOR SAFE REOPENING PLAN:

BACKGROUND: Further to guidance originally sent on August 3rd by the Provincial government regarding the safe reopening of schools guidance, we have since received further direction that requires an update to our OCS Safe Reopening Plan. Specifically, on August 17, 2021, to support the return to school plan, it was announced that the Ministry of Education intends to introduce a vaccination disclosure policy for all publicly-funded school board employees, and staff in private schools, as well as for all staff in licensed child care settings for the 2021-22 school year, with rapid antigen testing requirements for staff who are not immunized against COVID-19.

Subsequently on August 19, 2021, all Private School Principals in Ontario were advised via official memorandum by the Executive Lead of the Ontario Ministry of Education Private Schools and International Education Unit that private schools are “... to implement a COVID-19 immunization disclosure policy as an additional tool to advance safety and support local public health units in working with private schools to follow COVID-19 Guidance: School Case, Contact, and Outbreak Management”. This Ministry of Education memo also confirmed that private school policy will require employees undertake one of the following: provide proof of full vaccination against COVID-19; or provide a formal/official documented medical reason for not being vaccinated against COVID-19; or participate in an educational program approved by the Ministry of Education. Individuals who are not immunized, including those with medical reasons, will be required to complete regular COVID-19 testing as directed in provincial guidance under this Ministry requirement.



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After a great deal of prayerful discussion, the OCS Board has unanimously determined it best to align with these protocols as we do all that we can in an effort to defend against the unwanted spread of the Covid-19 virus and in turn employ every reasonable measure available to us to ensure our school remains open and vibrant for the upcoming 2021/22 school year. To enable a practical and effective adoption of this policy within our school community, a Covid Response Management Committee has been established. This committee (CMC) is comprised of both board and staff members who have dedicated considerable time over the past two weeks developing a response to the ever changing instructions being received by our government. This committee will continue to monitor and respond to additional instructions received and plan for how OCS will remain compliant with all necessary directives.

This committee can be contacted directly at cmc@orangevillechristianschool.com.

Additional information regarding this process will be shared as it is received from the Ministry of Education and/or any relevant public health guidance.



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PROTECTIVE STRATEGIES

Screening

Student Screening: All families will be required to engage in health screening daily. Parents are to use the COVID-19 Screening Tool with screening to be completed before students board the bus or arrive at school. Parents must ensure that students pass the screen, including questions about contact, travel, and isolation/quarantine, in order to attend school. If children are symptomatic, they are not permitted to be at school. The key in screening for symptoms is to detect changes in a child's usual health condition. If a family member is symptomatic or is being tested for Covid, please share that information with us and follow public health requirements for testing. Likewise, if you have travelled out of the country, you are expected to observe all public health isolation and quarantine procedures.

Staff Screening and Vaccination Status: All staff entering the school building will be required to engage in health screening daily using the [COVID-19 Screening Tool](#).

All OCS Staff, Board Members, and frequent school visitors, (i.e. school nutrition program staff, school music program instructors, student transportation drivers, etc.) are required to complete the Covid-19 Vaccination Form – to be submitted and stored confidentially by the **OCS Covid Response Management Committee (CMC)** at cmc@orangevillechristianschool.com.

Private schools must require individuals who are not fully vaccinated to complete regular rapid antigen testing for COVID-19. For individuals who are covered by a school's immunization disclosure policy but are less frequently in direct contact with students or staff, frequent testing may not be possible or reasonable. In these cases, the individual must complete a rapid antigen test as part of screening and demonstrate a negative test result, prior to interacting with students or staff. Individuals subject to testing requirements must provide written verification of negative test results to the **CMC**. **CMC** will confidentially store this data according to ministry guidelines. More information on testing frequency, and the process for obtaining and reporting rapid antigen tests results will be provided shortly as at this time OCS awaits further direction regarding the Covid-19 Rapid Antigen Testing Process from Public Health and the Ministry of Education. A revision to this plan will be shared once that has been received.

Rapid testing kits will be available at the school by Friday, September 10th for limited staff use at the discretion of staff and administration until an official plan is announced.



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Student Illness at School: It will take vigilance to prevent the spread of illness to help ensure that all at school remain well. If a student exhibits any COVID-19 related symptoms, he/she will be immediately relocated to a designated supervised isolated space. Parents will be contacted to pick up the student. Students will not be able to take school transportation if they have been isolated with symptoms. For students who may have pre-existing allergies or conditions, be sure to note on their medical forms the symptoms associated with that condition. Those awaiting COVID-19 test results are asked to remain at home. Policies and procedures for positive COVID-19 cases or an outbreak are in line with Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (SEE APPENDIX A).

Face Coverings, Face Masks & PPE

All staff are required to wear medical masks. Both medical masks and eye protection are required by Ministry of Education guidance for education staff working in close contact (within 2m) with individuals who are not wearing masks.

All visitors to the school, plus OCS students in grades 1-8 will be required to wear a non-medical face mask indoors and on buses at all times.

Masks will not be worn outdoors but should be readily available (in a pocket or on a lanyard). Activities such as “gaga ball” and playground structure will be in cohorts.

Students in JK and SK are encouraged, but not required to wear a face mask (please consider keeping a mask in the backpack).

Mask accommodations for students with medical, sensory, breathing, or behavioural complexities will be considered on a case-by-case basis and requests will be made in writing and submitted via email to cmc@orangevillechristianschool.com.

During indoor sports, masks must be worn while waiting to participate (e.g., on a bench, on the sidelines, etc.). Masks may be temporarily removed indoors for the following activities:

- Consuming food or beverages
- The use of wind instruments. All students may choose to wear face masks at their discretion where it is not required.



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PPE kits will be available for staff for specific situations.

Mask accommodations for staff with medical complexities will be considered on a case by case basis with requests made in writing to the OCS CMC, accompanied by a medical professional's note of approval.

Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

Shared materials are important for learning (for example, toys for imaginative play in kindergarten, manipulatives for math, computers and other tech materials, books, art supplies, indoor physical education equipment and shared outdoor equipment). The use of shared materials is permitted. Staff and students will practice regular hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette (masking) to reduce the risk of infection. Instructions for handwashing will be posted at each sink and/or handwashing station. Where hand washing is not possible, hand sanitizer will be used. Sanitizing stations will be placed in every classroom. Supervision of this task and of daytime classroom disinfection will be the responsibility of educators in the classroom. High frequency doors will be left/propped open to avoid contact as much as safely possible. Teachers will take time to teach, model and remind about handwashing. This includes avoiding touching the face, touching others, and practicing proper cough / sneezing etiquette.

Distancing and Congregating

As much as possible, students and staff will observe physical distancing guidelines. Capacity limits for washrooms and workspaces will be posted. According to Ministry of Education stated protocols at this time, there are not clear expectations that students remain physically distant from one another in their own classroom. Emphasis will be on hand washing, respiratory hygiene, and sanitizing. When possible, classroom windows will be opened for increased ventilation. As much as possible, seating will be arranged for physical distancing and so students are not facing one another for long periods. Recognizing that a variety of instructional and grouping strategies reflect best teaching practices, teachers will use partner and group work with discretion.

Music programs will be in place. Singing is permitted indoors. Masking is not required if a minimum distance of two metres can be maintained between cohorts and as much distancing as possible maintained within a cohort. When possible, music class will be done outdoors.



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Classes will take advantage of the outdoors for instruction time, activities, physical education, and exploration.

Community chapels, assemblies, performances, and social gatherings will comply with WDG guidelines. This includes allowance for in-school student to student peer support programs such as reading buddies – ideally taking advantage of outdoor opportunities whenever possible.

Cohorting of Students

To reduce student/staff exposure and to aid in contact tracing, cohort groups will be assigned within the school population. Students will move through the school with their cohort. As much as possible, cohorts will practice distancing from other cohorts. Staggered entry and dismissal procedures will be arranged. Members of different cohorts can interact outside with distancing encouraged or inside with distancing and masking.

Nutrition Breaks/Lunch Protocols

Students will eat lunch in their classrooms. Teachers will provide early day and late day snack opportunities as students will not be able to eat on buses. Students will be keeping food garbage and containers in their lunch bags to be cleaned or disposed of at home. Microwaves are back in the classrooms this year where applicable. Water bottles labeled with student names will be necessary as students will not be able to access water fountains. Fill stations and classroom taps will be used for refilling.

Nutrition/third party food programs and non-instructional food events (such as pizza day) are permitted to operate, provided that food handlers use adequate food handling and safety practises.

Inclement Weather Days

OCS will continue to follow its No Bus Days & School Closure Policy & Procedure.

Please note: the policy does not include pivoting to remote learning on inclement weather days.

Cleaning and disinfection standards and protocols

OCS will review our cleaning protocols and reinforce them if needed to meet current public health requirements. The review will include cleaning products, program and high touch surfaces.



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Parents & Visitors

OCS may limit parents and visitors inside the school. Visitors must wear a mask, self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms and sign in, before entering the school. Parents and essential visitors will use the front entrance and if admitted, will be allowed in the foyer and office zone, following capacity limits. The hallways to the classrooms are designated staff/student zones and are off limits to visitors and parents. If a student is late to school in the morning, he/she will be dropped off at the main office and will proceed to his/her classroom either with an OCS staff member, or on his/her own.

SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

Capacity: School vehicles can operate at full capacity. Where school vehicles are able to operate at less than full capacity, students should be seated in a manner that maximizes physical distancing,

Masks are required: The use of non-medical masks for students in grades 1 to 8 is required on school vehicles. Students in kindergarten are encouraged to wear masks on student transportation.

Assigned seats: Students should be assigned seats and a record of the seating plan will be kept to assist with contact tracing in the case of a student or driver contracting COVID-19. Students who live in the same household or are in the same classroom cohort will be seated together where possible.

SPECIFIC ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND REQUIREMENTS:

Music

Music programs are permitted in areas with adequate ventilation. Singing and the use of wind instruments are permitted. The band program will return for students in grades 6-8. The gymnasium will be used for student instruction.

Health and physical education

The use of gymnasiums, indoor physical education equipment and shared outdoor equipment are permitted according to OCS policy in compliance with WDG public health guidelines.



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EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOLS:**Field Trips & Extra Curricular Activities**

Field trips where the exposure risk is determined to be low will be permitted. We plan to offer only extra-curricular activities that can be provided safely. In regards to our sports program, we will offer a variety of sport opportunities, focusing on skill building and fair play. We are awaiting clarity from our partners in other area Christian schools with whom we compete. Intramurals and additional extra-curricular activities will be added in a gradual and/or modified version to comply with safe practices.

MAP Testing

Measures of Academic Progress testing for grades 3-8 will resume.

Before and after school programs

Before and after school programs are permitted and will follow OCS policy in compliance with WDG public health guidelines.

Community use of schools

Community use of the school is permitted provided activities are aligned with public health guidance and direction.

CONCLUSION:

In proceeding with implementing this policy, we are so very excited to be re-opening with both confidence and vigilance for the 2021/2022 school year!

As we plan for in person lessons, and as we implement our health and safety practices at school, we expect that families too are doing and will continue to do all that they can to minimize health risks to our OCS community. As public health guidelines and day-to-day realities change, protocols will be reviewed and families will receive updates. Our sincere prayer is for children to return to in-person instruction on September 7th, and to continue in-school through June 2022.

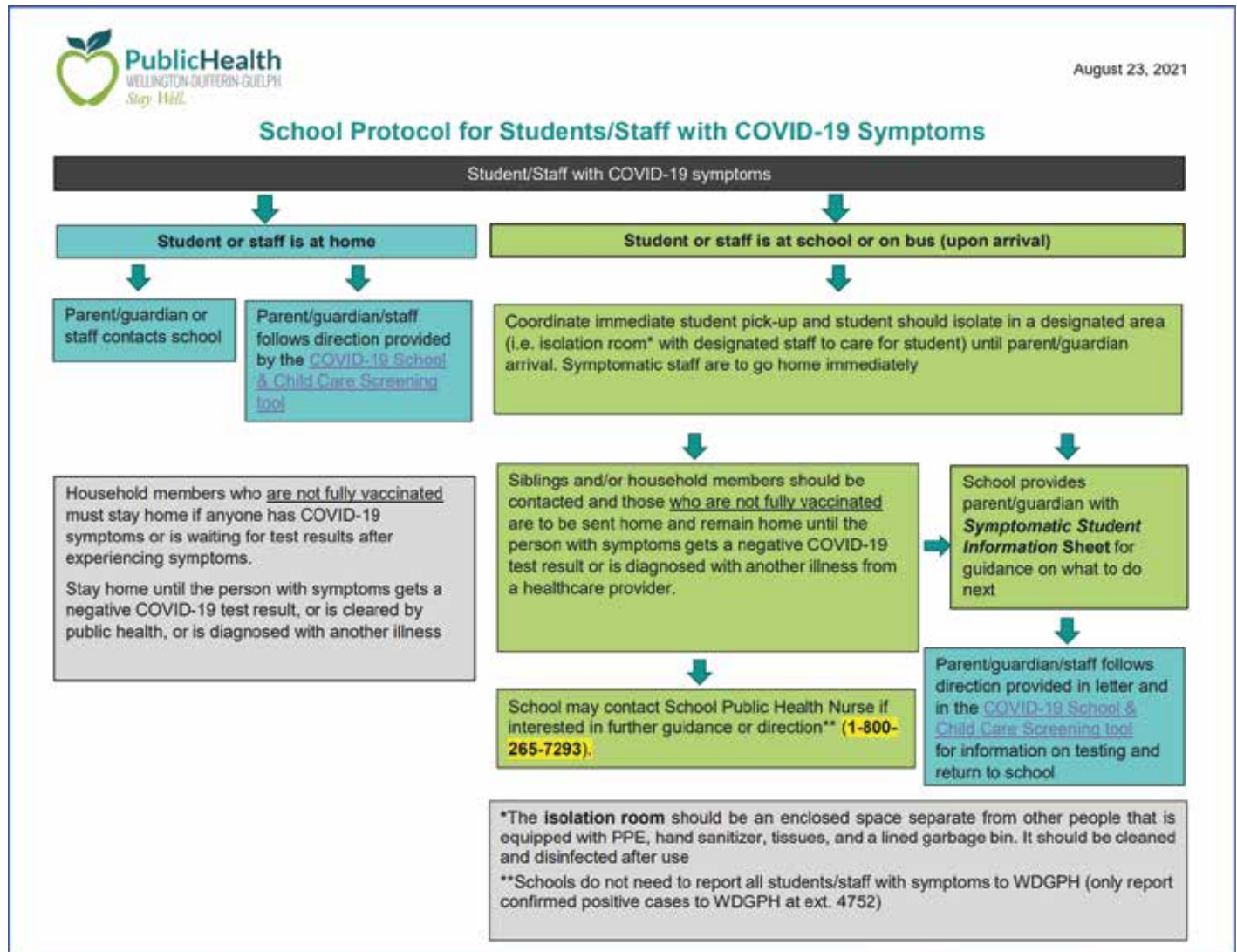
** Private schools must follow all protective strategies and immediately report any suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-9 within the school to the local public health unit as required under the Health Protection and Promotion Act. Private schools are not required to follow requirements in the document that apply only to school boards, such as requirements relating to in-person instructional time and remote learning*



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APPENDIX A

Protocol – Covid Response – WDG Public Health Flow Charts



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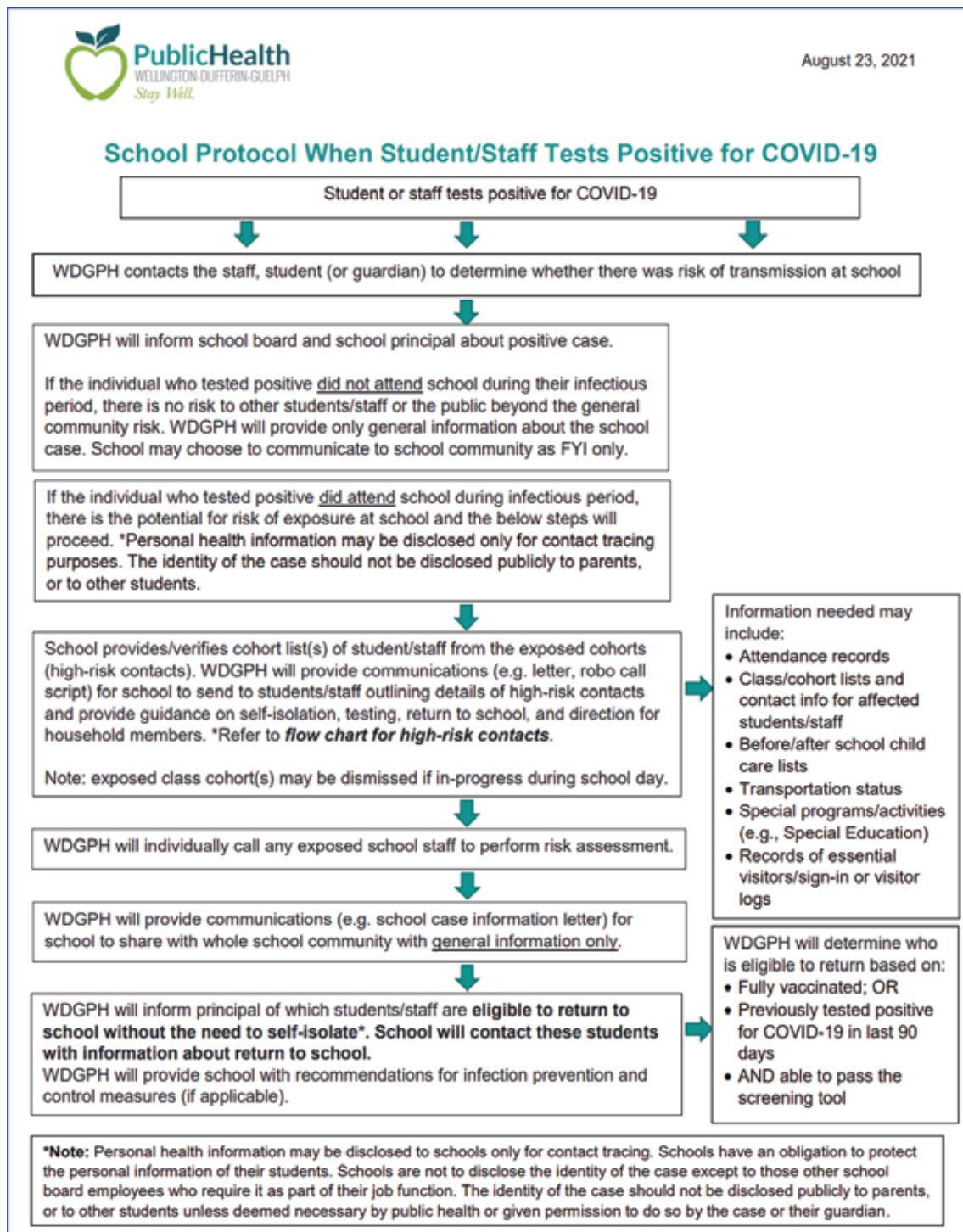
August 23, 2021

If symptomatic child/staff tests <u>negative</u> for COVID-19		If symptomatic child/staff <u>does not get tested</u> for COVID-19		If child/staff <u>tests positive</u> for COVID-19	
Symptomatic child/staff may return to school if all the following are met: • Test results are negative for COVID-19; AND • Symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (and no fever); AND • Must be able to pass screening tool Note: proof of negative test result not required		Scenario 1: Symptomatic child/staff may return to school if all the following are met: • Child/staff has isolated for 10 days from symptom onset; AND • Symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (and no fever); AND • Must be able to pass screening tool	Scenario 2: If a health care provider (HCP) has diagnosed the symptomatic child/staff with a condition that isn't related to COVID-19, they can return to school/childcare: • 24 hours after their symptoms start improving (and no fever)	Symptomatic child/staff who tests positive for COVID-19 must follow directions from Public Health (i.e. self-isolate for 10 days from symptom onset and symptoms improving for 24 hours (and no fever)).	
HM is Not Vaccinated or Partially Vaccinated	HM is Fully Vaccinated	HM is Not Vaccinated or Partially Vaccinated	HM is Fully Vaccinated	HM is Not Vaccinated or Partially Vaccinated	HM is Fully Vaccinated
HM must self-isolate while symptomatic individual is awaiting test results. If symptomatic person tests negative for COVID-19, household members can discontinue self-isolation Pass screening tool before returning to school/child care/work.	HM does not need to self-isolate while symptomatic individual is waiting for test results.	HM must self-isolate for 10 days from their last contact with the symptomatic individual who was not tested. If symptomatic person gets an alternative diagnosis by health care provider, HM can stop self-isolation and return to work. Pass screening tool before returning to school/child care/work.	HM does not need to self-isolate. If HM develops symptoms, self-isolate and get tested.	HM must self-isolate for 10 days from last exposure/contact with individual who tested positive. HM should get tested immediately, and if they receive a negative test result, recommended to re-test on or after day 10 of isolation. If HM develops symptoms get tested immediately.	HM does not need to self-isolate. HM should get tested immediately, and if they receive a negative test result, re-test as directed by Public Health. If HM develops symptoms self-isolate and get tested immediately.

Fully Vaccinated means that it has been 14 days or more after receiving your final dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

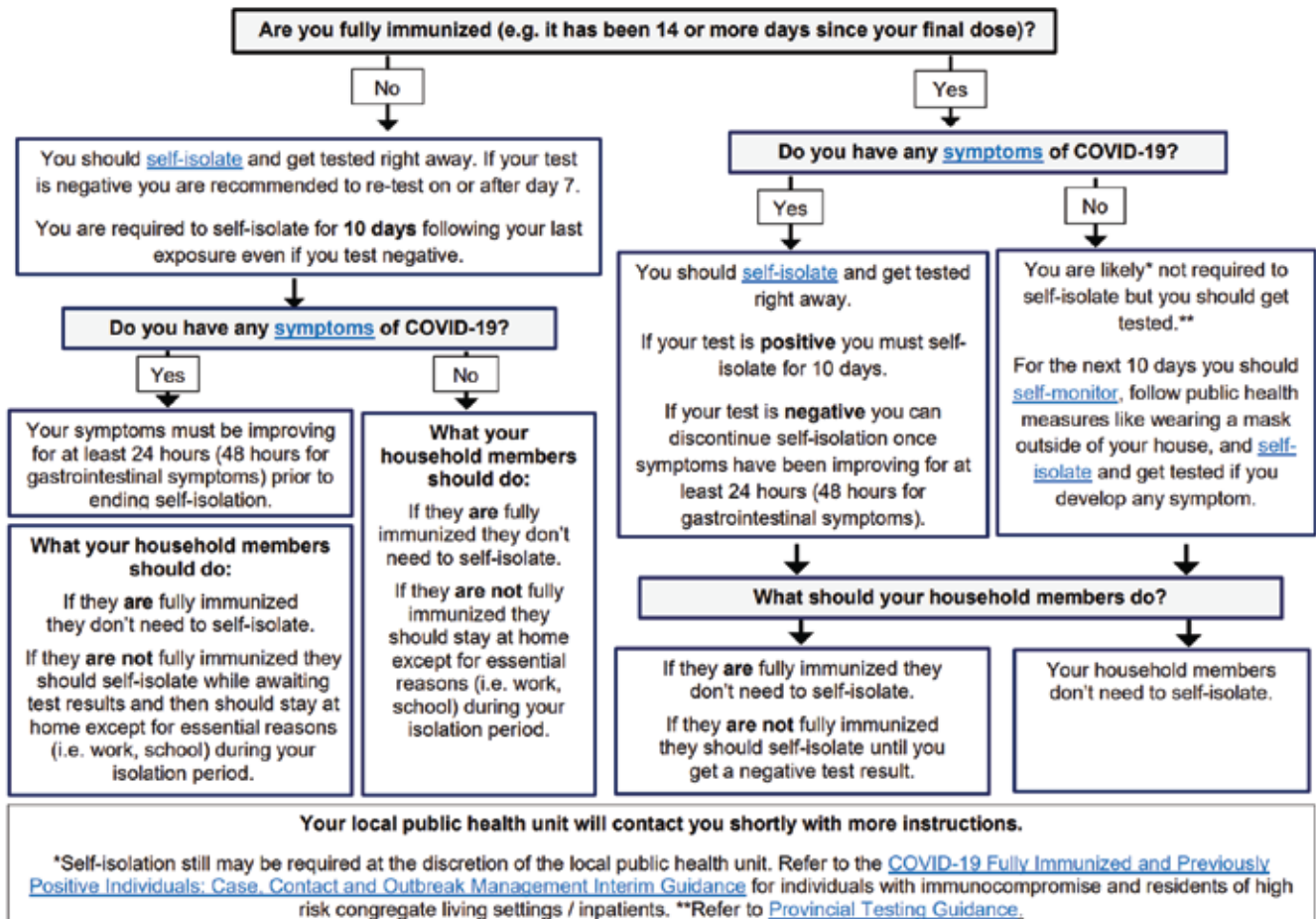


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You've been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, now what?



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