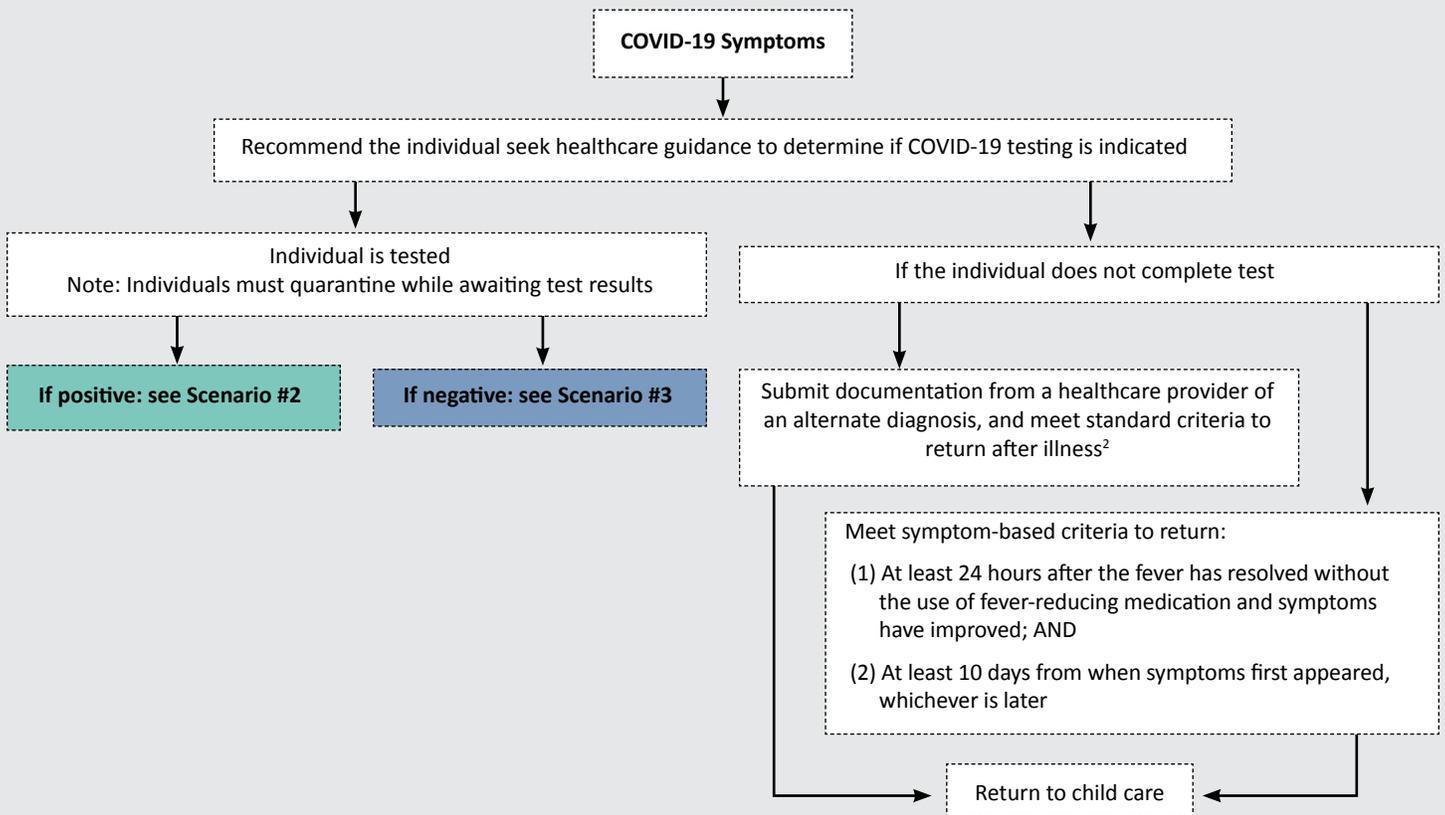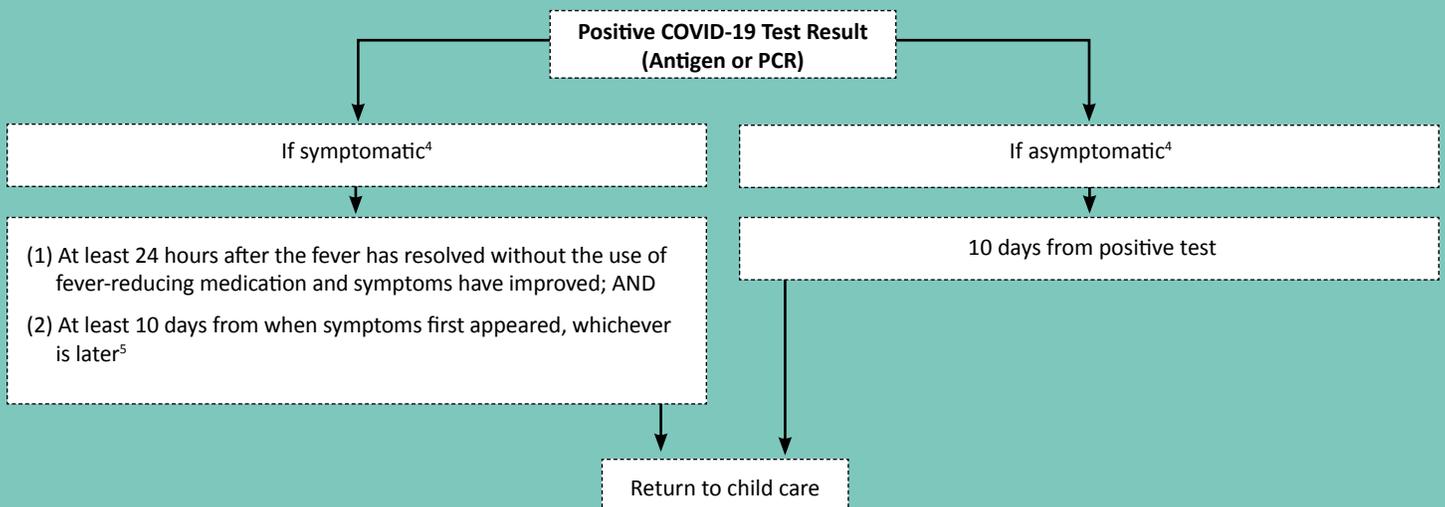# RETURN TO CHILD CARE CRITERIA
Adapted for ToTH Montessori

Note: These scenarios include standard criteria to return to care for children and staff. Individual guidance from DC Health or a healthcare provider would always supersede these criteria.
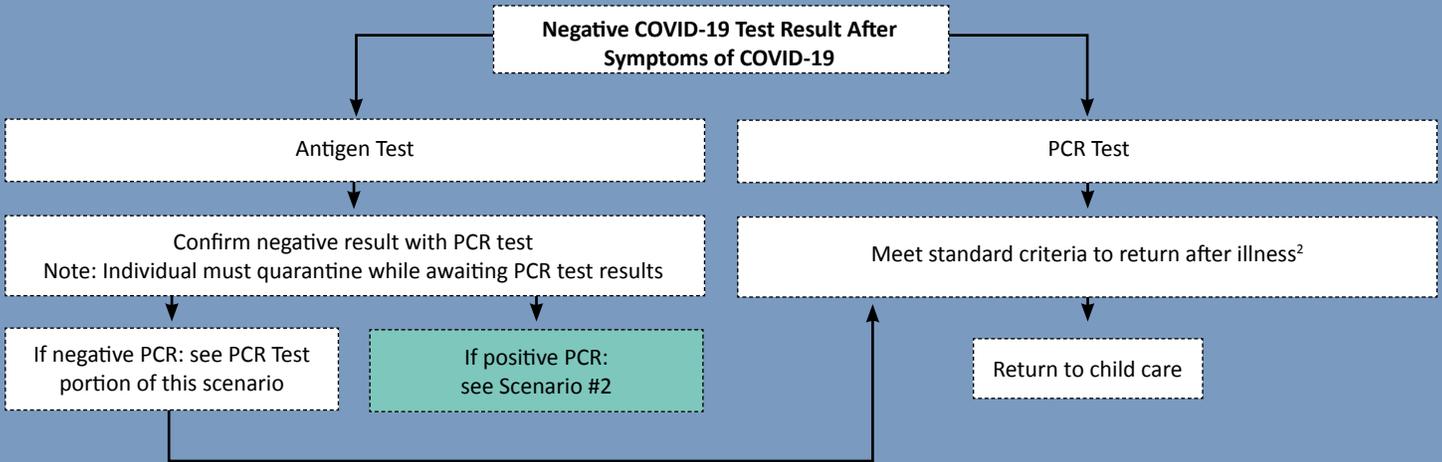
Scenario 1: Child or Staff Member with COVID-19 Symptoms[1]

COVID-19 Symptoms

Recommend the individual seek healthcare guidance to determine if COVID-19 testing is indicated

Individual is tested
Note: Individuals must quarantine while awaiting test results

If the individual does not complete test

If positive: see Scenario #2

If negative: see Scenario #3

Submit documentation from a healthcare provider of an alternate diagnosis, and meet standard criteria to return after illness[2]

Meet symptom-based criteria to return:

(1) At least 24 hours after the fever has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medication and symptoms have improved; AND

(2) At least 10 days from when symptoms first appeared, whichever is later

Return to child care

Scenario 2: Child or Staff Member with a Positive COVID-19 Test Result[3]

Positive COVID-19 Test Result
(Antigen or PCR)

If symptomatic[4]

If asymptomatic[4]

(1) At least 24 hours after the fever has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medication and symptoms have improved; AND

(2) At least 10 days from when symptoms first appeared, whichever is later[5]

10 days from positive test

Return to child care

Scenario 3: Child or Staff Member with a Negative COVID-19 Test Result After Symptoms of COVID-19[6]

Negative COVID-19 Test Result After Symptoms of COVID-19

Antigen Test

Confirm negative result with PCR test
Note: Individual must quarantine while awaiting PCR test results

If negative PCR: see PCR Test portion of this scenario

If positive PCR: see Scenario #2

PCR Test
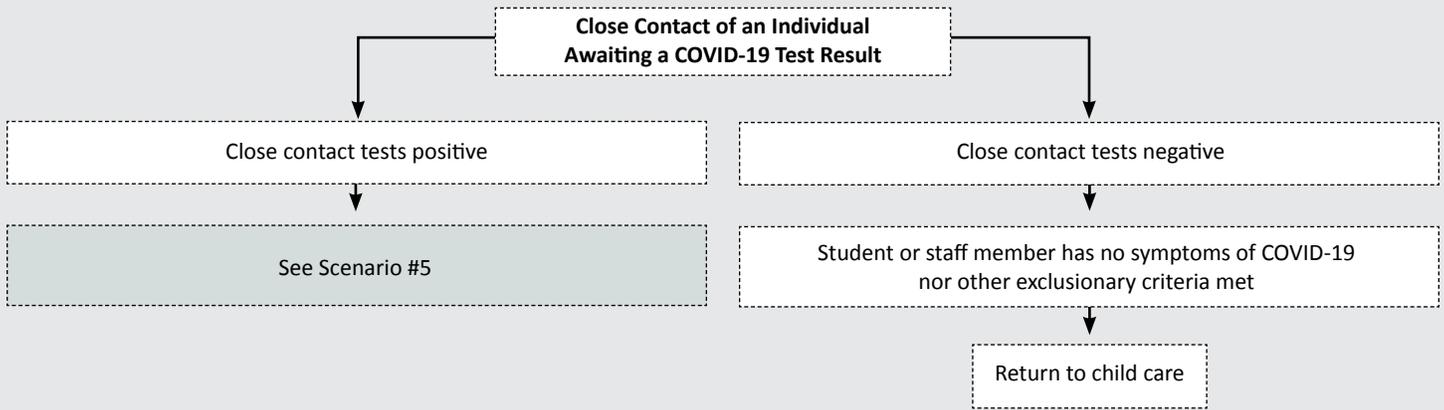
Meet standard criteria to return after illness[2]

Return to child care

Scenario 4: Child or Staff Member with Documentation from Healthcare Provider of Alternate Diagnosis After Symptoms of COVID-19

Documentation from Healthcare Provider of Alternate Diagnosis After Symptoms of COVID-19 → Meet standard criteria to return after illness[2] → Return to child care

Scenario 5: Child or Staff Member is a Close Contact of an Individual with Confirmed COVID-19[7]

Close Contact of Individual with Confirmed COVID-19

If the COVID-19 positive individual is **not** a household member

A negative PCR test and a minimum of 10 days from last exposure to COVID-19 positive individual, or as instructed by DC Health.[6] The 10 day quarantine is allowable if the close contact does not develop any symptoms and continues to self monitor for 14 days.

If the COVID-19 positive individual is a household member

A minimum of 14 days from the end of the COVID-19 positive individual's infectious period (See Scenario #2), or as instructed by DC Health[6]

Return to child care

Scenario 6: Child or Staff Member is a Close Contact of an Individual Awaiting a COVID-19 Test Result

```
                    ┌─────────────────────────────────┐
                    │   Close Contact of an Individual │
          ┌─────────│   Awaiting a COVID-19 Test Result│─────────┐
          │         └─────────────────────────────────┘          │
          ▼                                                       ▼
┌───────────────────────────┐              ┌───────────────────────────────┐
│   Close contact tests      │              │   Close contact tests negative │
│   positive                 │              │                                │
└───────────────────────────┘              └───────────────────────────────┘
          │                                                       │
          ▼                                                       ▼
┌───────────────────────────┐              ┌───────────────────────────────┐
│     See Scenario #5        │              │ Student or staff member has no │
│                            │              │ symptoms of COVID-19           │
│                            │              │ nor other exclusionary criteria met │
└───────────────────────────┘              └───────────────────────────────┘
                                                            │
                                                            ▼
                                            ┌───────────────────────────────┐
                                            │      Return to child care      │
                                            └───────────────────────────────┘
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Scenario 7: Child or Staff Member Traveled to Any Place Other than Maryland, Virginia, or a Low-Risk State, Country, or Territory

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                    ┌─────────────────────────────────────────┐
                    │ Travel to Any Place Other than Maryland, │
          ┌─────────│ Virginia, or a Low-Risk State, Country,  │─────────┐
          │         │ or Territory[8]                          │         │
          ▼         └─────────────────────────────────────────┘         ▼
┌───────────────────────────┐              ┌───────────────────────────────────┐
│ Self-monitor and limit     │              │ Self-monitor and limit daily      │
│ daily activities–including │              │ activities–including not attending│
│ not attending child care–  │              │ child care–until tested for       │
│ for 14 days                │              │ COVID-19 (within 3-5 days after   │
│                            │              │ return)                           │
│                            │              │ AND                               │
│                            │              │ Receive a negative test result    │
└───────────────────────────┘              └───────────────────────────────────┘
          │                                                       │
          └──────────────────►┌───────────────────────────┐◄─────┘
                              │    Return to child care    │
                              └───────────────────────────┘
```
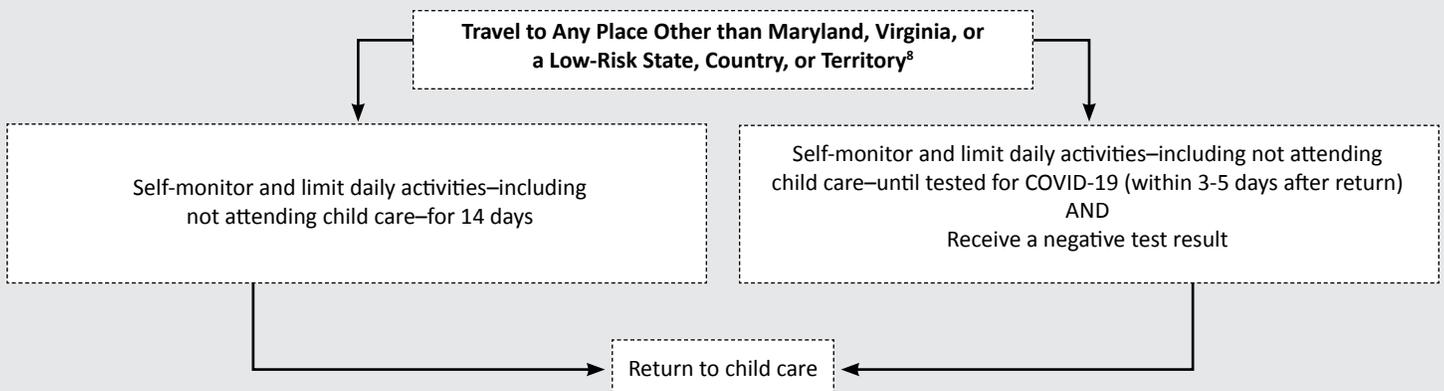
Endnotes

1 Children or staff with pre-existing health conditions that present with specific COVID-19–like symptoms may not be excluded from entering the facility on the basis of those specific symptoms, if a healthcare provider has provided written or verbal documentation that those specific symptoms are not due to COVID-19.

2 Standard criteria to return after illness refers to the individual facility's existing policies and protocols for a child or employee to return to child care after illness.

3 See DC Health's Guidance for Persons Who Tested Positive for COVID-19 on coronavirus.dc.gov/phasetwo for more information.

4 Regardless of whether symptomatic or asymptomatic, close contacts (including all members of the household) must quarantine for at least 10 days.

5 Some individuals, including those with severe illness, may have longer quarantine periods per DC Health or their healthcare provider.

6 Per Scenario #5, a negative test result after close contact with an individual with confirmed COVID-19 does *not* shorten the duration of quarantine of at least 10 to 14 days.

7 DC Health strongly recommends that individuals who live or work with someone at higher-risk for COVID-19 quarantine for 14 days. See DC Health's Guidance for Quarantine after COVID-19 Exposure on coronavirus.dc.gov/healthguidance for more information.

8 For the list of low-risk states, see coronavirus.dc.gov/phasetwo. For the list of countries and territories by risk level, see www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/map-and-travel-notices.html.