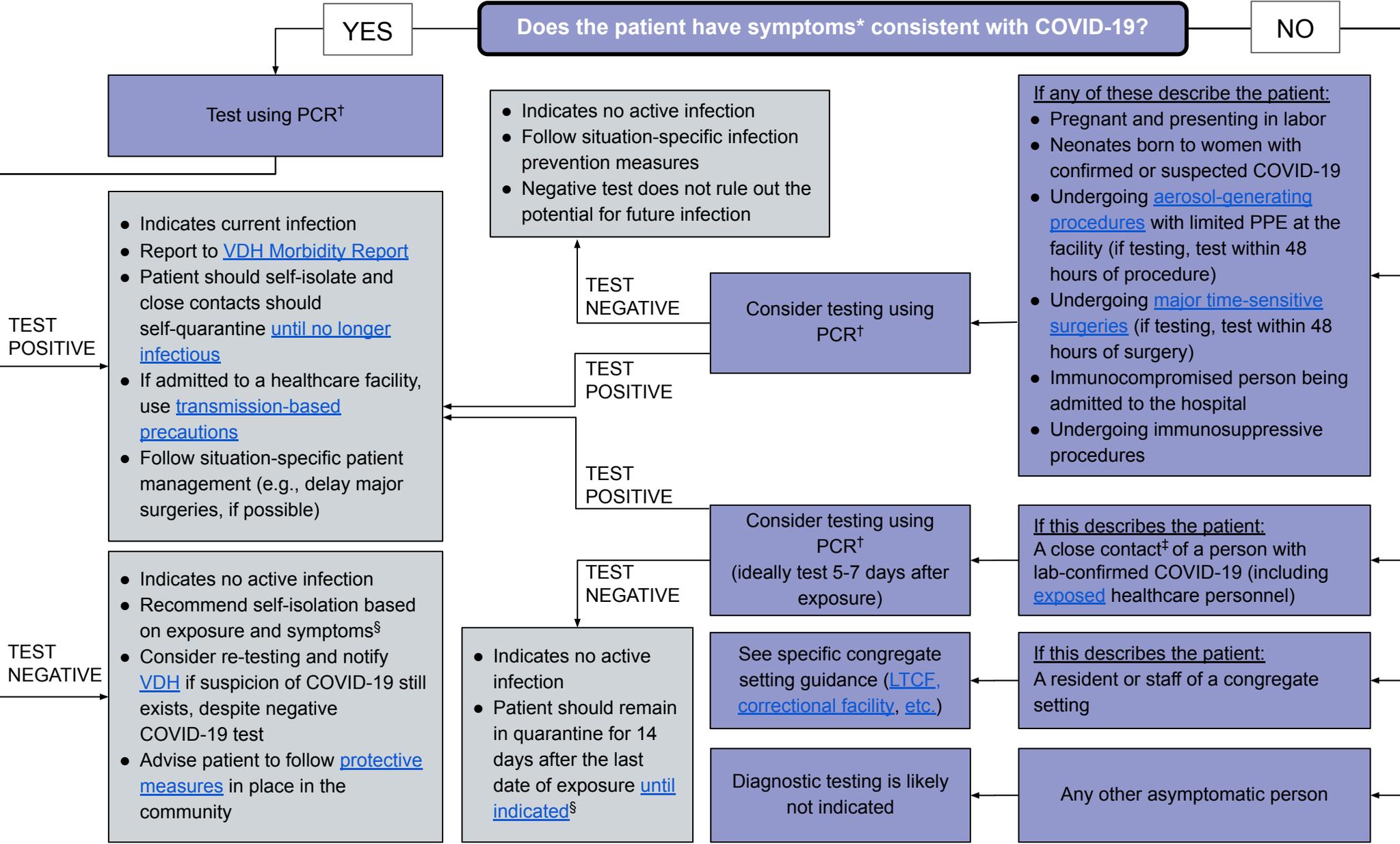


VDH COVID-19 TESTING ALGORITHM

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

June 1, 2020



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

* COVID-19 patients may present with typical [symptoms](#) of cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell. Atypical presentations have been [described](#). Older adults and persons with medical comorbidities may have delayed presentation of fever and respiratory symptoms and older persons may have delirium or falls. Some persons with COVID-19 have experienced gastrointestinal symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. Children have similar symptoms as adults and generally have milder illness. Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) has been [described](#) in patients aged <21 years.

† 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 active COVID-19 infection or making decisions about returning to work. Antigen tests have a limited interpretation; negative antigen tests should be confirmed with a PCR test.

§ If the person had a known exposure to someone with COVID-19, the person should continue to self-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 self-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, a close contact is defined by CDC as any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 48 hours before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated. Data are insufficient to precisely define the duration of exposure that constitutes prolonged exposure and thus a close contact.