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**Magdalena Municipal Schools**

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"OUR STUDENTS ARE OUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY"

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To: Parents or Guardians of children who attend Magdalena Municipal School

Magdalena Municipal School is working with the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) and New Mexico's Department of Health (NMDOH) because a child who attends our school has tested positive for COVID-19.

This letter is to inform you about the next steps necessary to protect your child and our community from COVID-19. Per guidance from both NMPED and NMDOH, we are required to investigate to see who had "close contact" with the staff member or student who tested positive for COVID-19. A "close contact" is defined as being closer than six feet for a cumulative total of fifteen minutes or more over a 24-hour period to a person who is positive for COVID-19.

In the meantime, if you or your child begin to develop symptoms of COVID-19, which are fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of smell or taste, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>), please call your healthcare provider or the COVID-19 Hotline at 1-855-600-3453.

NM PED has instituted a new program called Test to Stay in NM. To participate in Test to Stay requires a **quarantined** individual to test negative on rapid COVID-19 tests on days one, three, and five following exposure (day zero is the day of exposure). Depending on start date, you can also test days two, four and six. If a student stops the testing sequence then they are expected to quarantine and cannot continue to come to school. Students must test negative on the required test intervals to return back to school. If you would like to participate you need to get your child tested at a facility that will give an **official test stating your child is negative**. The following sites give official rapid testing: Socorro PMS - (575)835.4444, Acute Care in Los Lunas - (505)361-2111. You can find other sites at: [findatestnm.org](http://findatestnm.org). The Negative test needs to be brought into school and given to the secretary or nurse.

It is important that you call ahead to your healthcare provider before presenting to the physician's office, clinic, urgent care or emergency room so that they can be prepared for your arrival.

Areas of the school (including buses) in which the COVID-19 positive individual spent time will be cleaned, and those who were close contacts of the positive case will be notified.

You may call the school nurse, Holly Hagy at 575-854-8030 or NMDOH at (505) 827-0006, if you have questions. Thank you for your support in these efforts.

Sincerely,

Magdalena Administration



Jory Mirabal  
Elementary Principal



Leslie Clark  
Mid/High Principal

# Test to Stay (Modified Quarantine)

All schools will participate in test to stay programs so that unvaccinated close contacts may either be tested for COVID-19 or quarantine at home.

Students and staff participating in test to stay may ride school transportation and participate in instructional activities at school. They may also participate in extracurricular activities, including athletics. Test to stay is only available to those individuals who are exposed to COVID-19 in the school setting. Anyone with exposure to COVID-19 in the household setting is explicitly prohibited from participating in test to stay.

To participate in test to stay requires an individual to test negative on rapid COVID-19 tests on days one, three, and five following exposure (day zero is the day of exposure). A school may require individuals test more frequently than the required three tests. When there is a delay in being notified of exposure, the testing sequence begins on the first day in which a school is notified of the exposure and the individual is in attendance. When a testing day falls on a day that schools are not in session, or a day that a student is absent, the testing sequence resumes on the subsequent school day. Failure to test (regardless of the reason) when the individual is at school on a required testing day terminates test to stay for the individual and a return to quarantine at home for the duration of the quarantine period is required.

In the case that an individual participating in test to stay has a second close contact exposure while on modified quarantine, the testing sequence must be restarted for the most recent close contact.

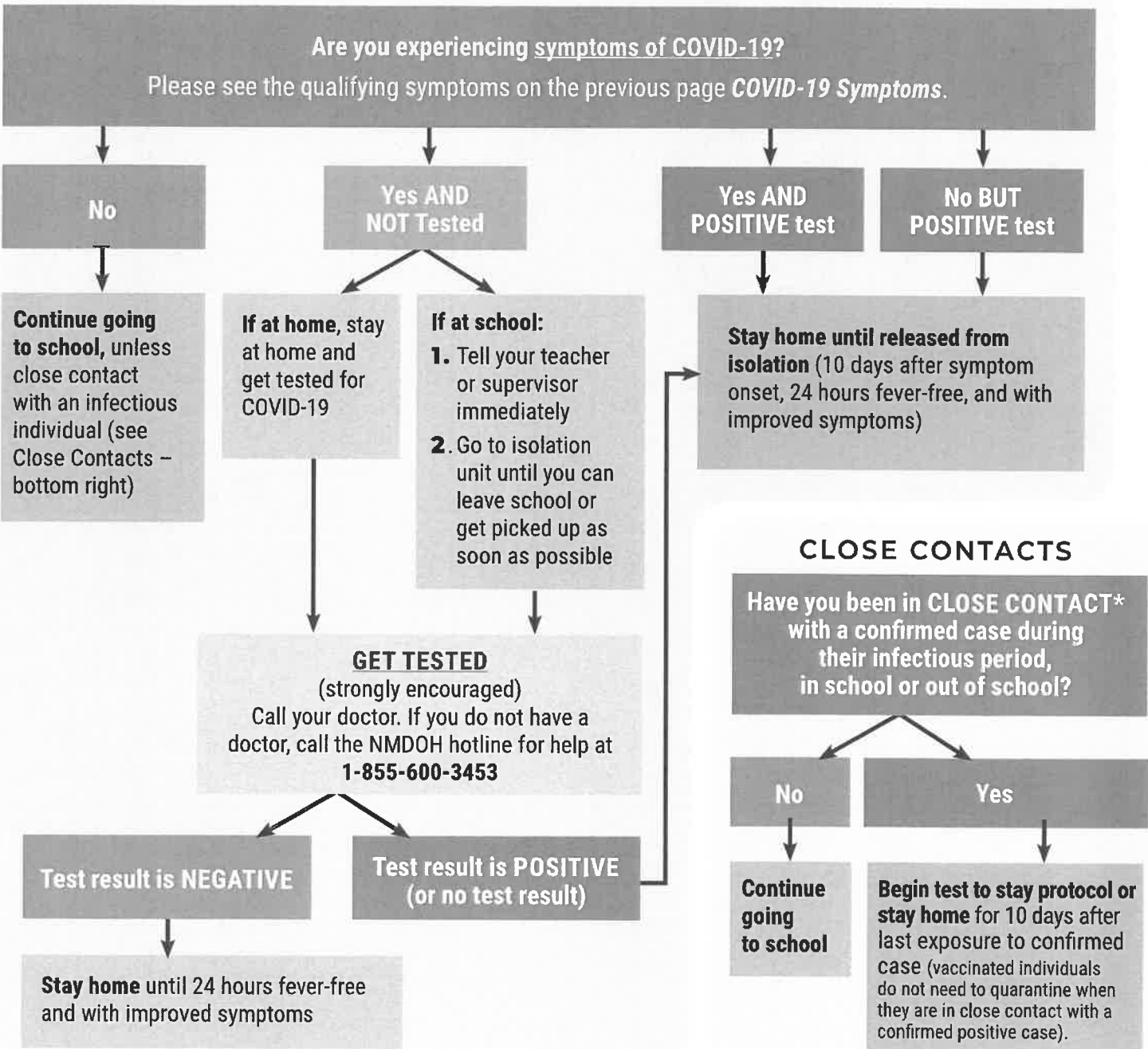
If an individual on test to stay exhibits COVID-19 symptoms requiring self-isolation, then modified quarantine is terminated and the individual must self-isolate at home pending confirmation of a negative test for COVID-19 and ideally, an alternative explanation for the symptoms. If COVID-19 is confirmed, then self-isolation continues for 10 days following the day that symptoms began.

**All schools are required to participate in test to stay programs to help ensure more students may continue in-person learning.** Schools without current capacity to provide regular rapid COVID-19 testing at school should pursue funding and testing opportunities available through the Department of Health's Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) grant in an effort to successfully implement test to stay programs. Additional information, including registration instructions for the ELC grant, may be found at [Home – NM Schools COVID Testing](#). Tests are provided at no cost to schools, and funding through the grant opportunity may be utilized to hire support staff, or pay stipends to existing staff, for administration of the test to stay program.

Test to stay does not change self-isolation requirements for those who have tested positive for COVID-19 and are within the infectious period.

# School Staff & Student Decision Tree

The following decision tree was created for families, students, and staff to better understand the steps that should be taken if an individual develops symptoms. Fully vaccinated close contacts are not required to quarantine and are encouraged (not required) to test 5 days after exposure or at onset of symptoms. Unvaccinated close contacts must begin test to stay protocol (page 5 of the Toolkit), or quarantine for 10 days, and are strongly encouraged to be tested five days after exposure or at onset of symptoms.



**Symptoms in a Recovered Individual:** If a person is positive for COVID-19, completes their self-isolation, recovers, and then develops new COVID-like symptoms within 90 days of their first infection, they should stay home until fever-free for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication and with improvement in symptoms. They may consider consulting their healthcare provider for additional guidance. If a person who was positive for COVID-19 more than 90 days ago develops new COVID-like symptoms, they should follow the same guidance as for someone who was never previously a case.

\*See definition of Close Contact on page 4.

# Quarantine & Isolation Decision Tree

