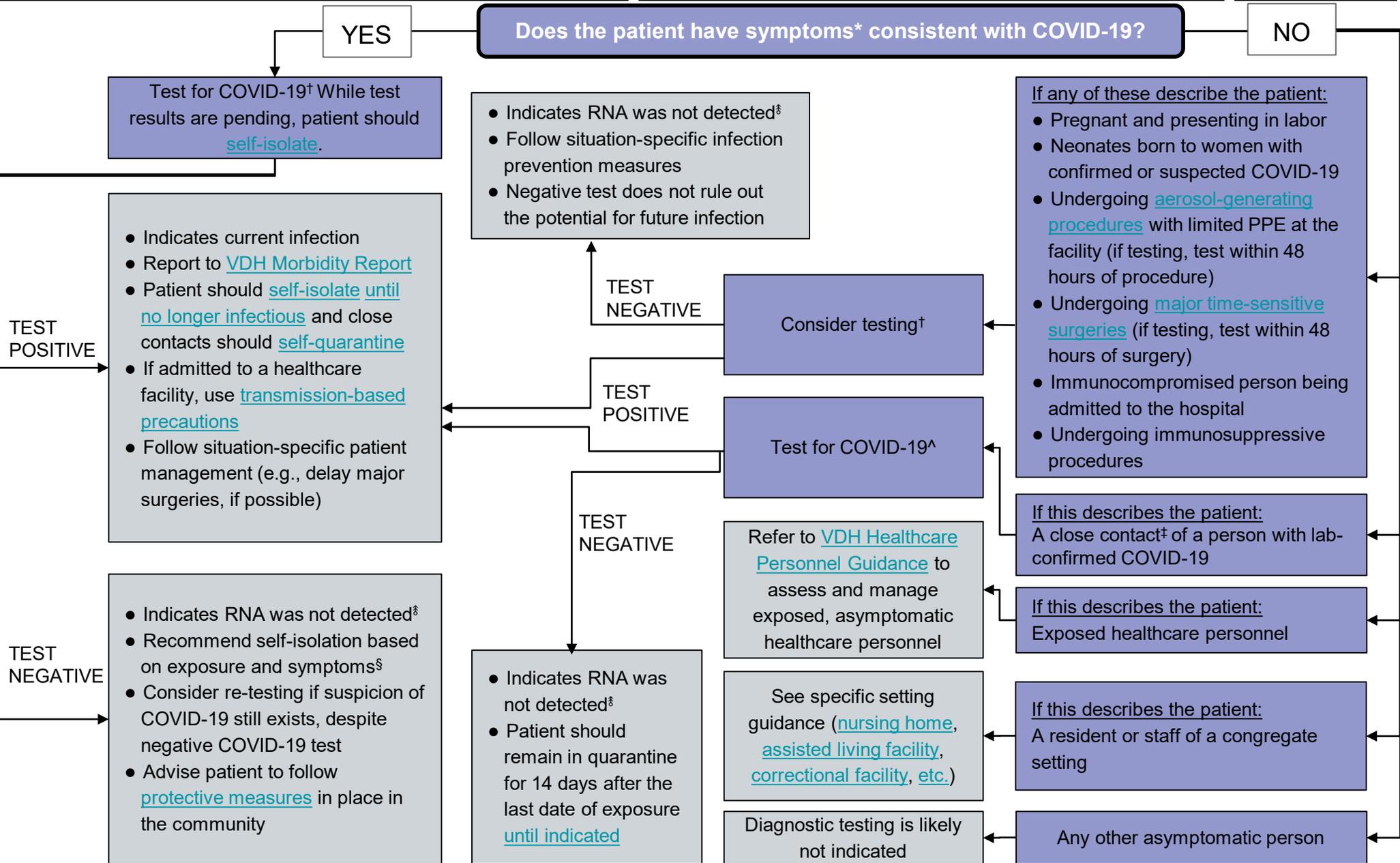


# VDH COVID-19 MOLECULAR TESTING ALGORITHM

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

September 9, 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.

^ 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 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).

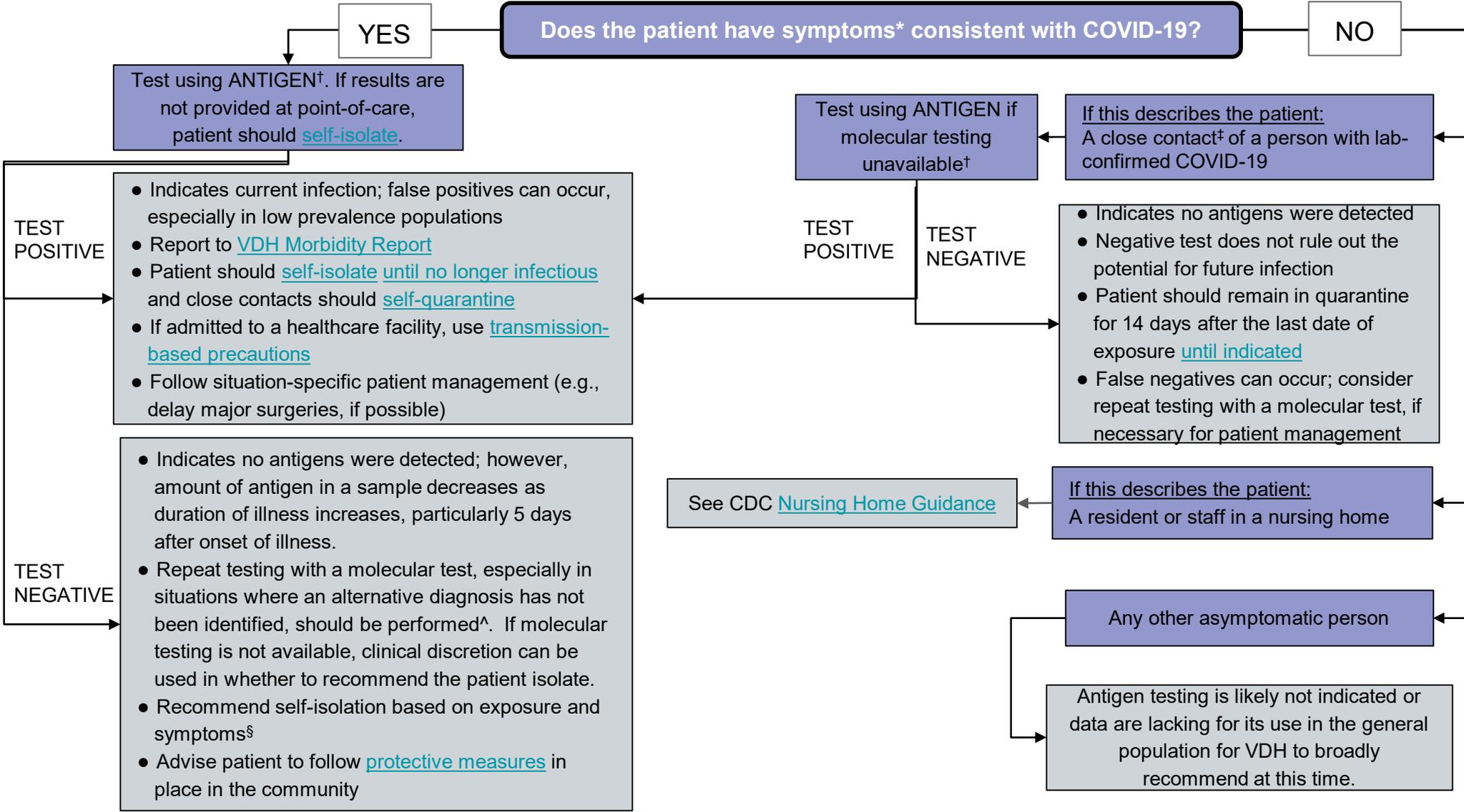
‡ For COVID-19, VDH defines a close contact as any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes or who had contact with respiratory secretions with an infectious person, starting from 48 hours before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.

§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

September 9, 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](#). 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](#)

^When confirming an antigen test result with a molecular test, it is important that the time interval between the two sample collections is less than two days, and there have not been any opportunities for new exposures between the two tests.

§ 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, VDH defines a close contact as any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes or who had contact with respiratory secretions with an infectious person, 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.