

Belleville Henderson Central School District

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Home of the Panthers

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To: Belleville Henderson Board of Education
From: Jane Collins, Superintendent
Re: Addendum to the BHSD Opening Plan 2021-2022
Date: September 20, 2021

On September 2, 2021 NYS Department of Health Commissioner, Dr. Howard Zucker, issued 10 NYCRR 2.62 regulation regarding COVID-19 testing in public schools. It states that schools are required to ensure teachers and staff have testing for COVID-19 performed once a week when a school is in a geographic area identified by the CDC as having low, moderate, substantial, or high transmission rates. Commissioner Zucker's determination also provides that teachers and staff may be permitted to opt out of mandatory weekly testing if they have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Additionally, this guidance addressed optional testing that schools must offer for unvaccinated students on a weekly basis. This Addendum explains the District's response to these new regulations.

Testing Required by Staff

Jefferson County is currently identified as having a high transmission rate. The Belleville Henderson Central School District is required by New York State to test unvaccinated staff on a weekly basis until such time that we are no longer in an area identified as having a low, moderate, substantial or high transmission rate or an individual becomes fully vaccinated.

Belleville Henderson School District - Limited Service Laboratory Registration

The Bohlen Technical Center which operates under the Jefferson Lewis BOCES is registered with the NYSDOH as a Limited Service Laboratory (LSL). Belleville Henderson School District operates the Screening testing and Diagnostic Testing under the Bohlen Technical Center LSL. Our school nurse and other assigned staff will be trained to participate in required testing procedures in order to conduct the testing procedures. See attached Certificate for Belleville Henderson School District.

Screening Testing – For Teachers and Staff

Unvaccinated teachers and staff are required to be tested for COVID-19 at least once per week when schools are located in a low, moderate, substantial, or high transmission rates areas. The District is working with BOCES to implement weekly screen testing. BOCES is coordinating the actual tests used, the proper training on how testing is administered, processed to determine testing outcomes and reported to the NYS Electronic Clinical Laboratory Reporting System (ECLRS) according to the NYS Executive Order No. 202.61.

Screening Testing – For Students

The District is required to offer COVID screening testing to unvaccinated students on a weekly basis pending parental request and permission.

Diagnostic Testing

Schools must have the capacity to provide diagnostic testing for students, teachers or staff who regardless of vaccination status and community level of transmission are symptomatic or asymptomatic following exposure to someone with COVID-19.

Special Requirements for Return to School Testing

All school students, teachers, and staff with new or worsening symptoms of COVID -19 must be excluded from school, regardless of vaccination status and either (a) provide a negative COVID test result, or (b) remain excluded from school for a minimum of 10 calendar days from symptom onset, prior to returning to school.

The District will continue to work with the BOCES to implement the NYSDOH testing requirements and guidance to return to in-person instruction. Attached is the "Commissioner's Determination on COVID-19 Testing Pursuant to 10 NYSCRR 2.62 issued on September 2, 2021.

Contact Tracing

The NYSDOH issued Contact Tracing Charts for Student-to-Student Contacts, Student to Adult Contacts, Adult-to-Adult Contacts, Lunchroom Settings, Sports, and three Transportation Diagrams. See attached Charts from the NYSDOH/CDC. The District is required to work with the NYSDOH School Specialist to determine how contact tracing is to be conducted following the guidance on in the Contact Tracing Charts.

New York State Department of Health
PFL Z871 Limited Service Laboratory Registration

CLIA: 33D2208090

Charles H Bohlen Jr Technical Center
20104 State Rte 3
Watertown NY 13601

is hereby authorized in accordance with Article 5, Title V, Section 579
of the Public Health Law to operate the testing location indicated below.

Site No: Z871-0009

Belleville Henderson Central School
8372 County Rte 75
Adams NY 13605

Initial

Effective Date: January 5, 2021

Expiration Date: January 5, 2023

Certification Type: WAIVER
Subject to Revocation
Registration Not Transferable

POST CONSPICUOUSLY

Serial: LIM-S 24375



Department of Health

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

LISA PINO, M.A., J.D.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

Commissioner's Determination on COVID-19 Testing Pursuant to 10 NYCRR 2.62

September 2, 2021

Pursuant to 10 NYCRR 2.62, I hereby issue the following determination, which includes findings of necessity, to support the testing requirements set forth below:

Findings of necessity:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified a concerning national trend of increasing circulation of the Delta COVID-19 variant, which is approximately twice as transmissible as the early SARS-CoV-2 strain. Since early July, cases have risen 10-fold, and 95 percent of sequenced recent positives in New York State were the Delta variant.

Certain settings and areas (i.e., healthcare, schools, and public places located in CDC-identified areas of substantial or high community transmission) pose increased challenges and urgency for controlling the spread of this disease because of the vulnerable populations served, the disproportionate percentage of individuals (i.e., children) who are not yet eligible for the COVID-19 vaccination, and/or the substantial to high levels of community transmission. Regular COVID-19 testing enables the immediate identification of COVID-19-positive individuals, even if they are not symptomatic, so that they can isolate and prevent further transmission. Additionally, the reporting of positive COVID-19 test results to public health authorities facilitates the rapid initiation of contact tracing to ensure close contacts are quarantined, tested, and isolated as needed.

The CDC's recommendation for testing, including its associated scientific justification, is available at: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/transmission_k_12_schools.html#in-person.

Based on the foregoing findings of necessity, I hereby issue the following testing requirements:

Testing Requirement:

After careful review and consideration of the above referenced CDC recommendations for COVID-19 testing, effective immediately and for as long as this determination remains in effect, all P-12 schools are hereby required to implement testing consistent with the following:

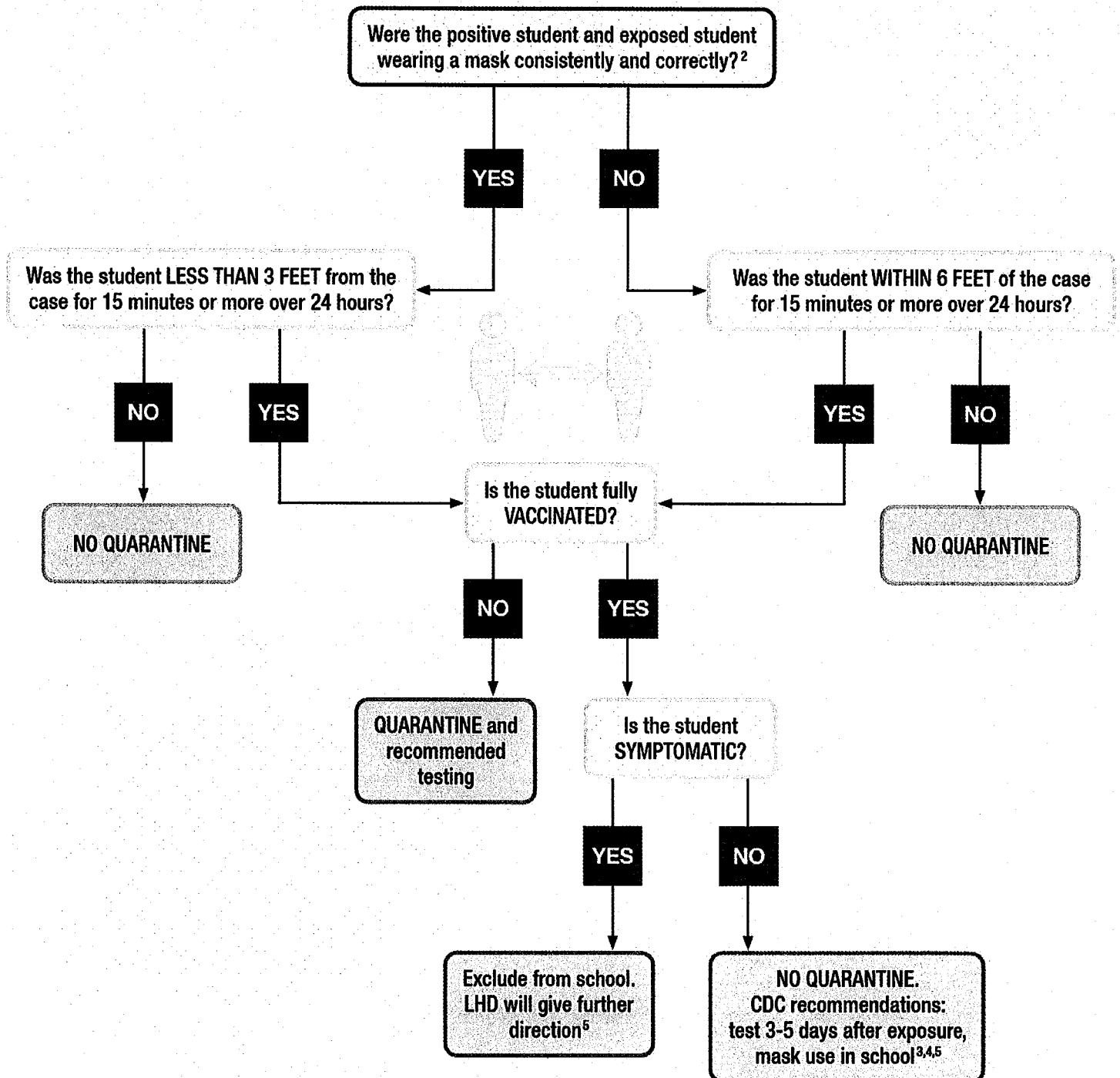
1. Definitions and Application:

- a. **Teachers and Staff.** This determination applies to all P-12 (public or non-public) school district faculty or staff, including all teachers, substitute teachers, student teachers, school administrators, paraprofessional staff, and support staff, including bus drivers. This determination also applies to contractors working in a P-12 school (public or non-public) or school district setting, including contracted bus drivers.

schools may require a negative antigen test result rather than a negative NAAT test result for people with new or worsening symptoms to return to school (in all other cases, a NAAT, such as PCR, may be required to return to school, along with meeting other requirements based on school policies and the specific situation, such as quarantine):

- i. The rates of COVID-19 in the county are low.
 - ii. The school is not experiencing an active, ongoing outbreak.
 - iii. The individual in question does not have known exposure to COVID-19, has not had a fever during the illness, and does not have symptoms that increase the likelihood that the illness is COVID-19 (i.e., loss of taste or smell).
 - iv. Symptomatic individuals allowed to return to school with a negative antigen test must:
 - Meet other school or district requirements to attend school after illness,
 - Not have rhinorrhea (runny nose) or cough severe enough to make mask wear difficult or unhygienic, and
 - v. The school or district has sought input from and discussed the risks and benefits of this option with parents, teachers, and the school community at large.
 - vi. The school/district has educated families about:
 - The possibility of missing a case of COVID-19 using antigen tests and the possible preference for NAAT testing for reasons other than school attendance.
 - The advantages of keeping children with non-COVID-19 illnesses at home to prevent transmission of these illnesses to other children, who then would need COVID-19 testing, and
 - The practice of accepting a negative antigen test result in a symptomatic person as a conclusive indication of the absence of COVID-19 infection **is inconsistent with NYSDOH and CDC guidance**.
- c. Exceptions to the testing requirement set forth above include:
- i. Individuals with symptoms that are attributable to pre-existing medical conditions (e.g., migraines, allergies) and are not new or worsening do not require school exclusion; or
 - ii. If the HCP provides a diagnosis of a known chronic condition with unchanged symptoms, or a confirmed acute illness (examples: laboratory-confirmed influenza, strep-throat) **AND** COVID-19 is not suspected, then a note signed by their **HCP explaining the alternate diagnosis is required** before a student, teacher or staff member may be allowed to return to school. Such individuals may return to school according to the usual guidelines for that diagnosis.
5. **Authorized tests:** Any testing—screening, diagnostic, and/or pooled testing—must be FDA or DOH authorized and be performed by a NYS approved laboratory to ensure all NYS regulatory and reporting requirements are met. Schools using a laboratory to perform screening or diagnostic testing need to ensure that the laboratory holds the appropriate NYS approvals to perform testing. Laboratories that perform high complexity NAAT are required to hold a clinical laboratory permit; to determine if a laboratory has a clinical laboratory permit, a search can be performed here. Laboratories that perform waived, point of care testing are required to be registered as an LSL; to determine if a laboratory has an LSL, a search can be performed here. Some laboratories that held temporary approval to perform COVID-19 testing will be allowed to continue testing; to determine if a temporarily approved laboratory can perform COVID-19 testing, contact Covid19rapidtest@health.ny.gov. If you cannot determine if the laboratory is approved, contact Covid19rapidtest@health.ny.gov.

Student Case/Student Contacts¹



1. In general, this algorithm will be used to identify individuals who require isolation and/or quarantine/exclusion after a potential exposure. Ultimately, decisions will be made based on the LHD's review of all unique circumstances of the investigation.

2. CDC consistent and correct mask use: [CLICK HERE](#)

3. CDC guidance for testing fully vaccinated individuals after exposure: [CLICK HERE](#)

4. At present, mask use in school is mandated in NYS per Regulation 10 nycrr 2.61

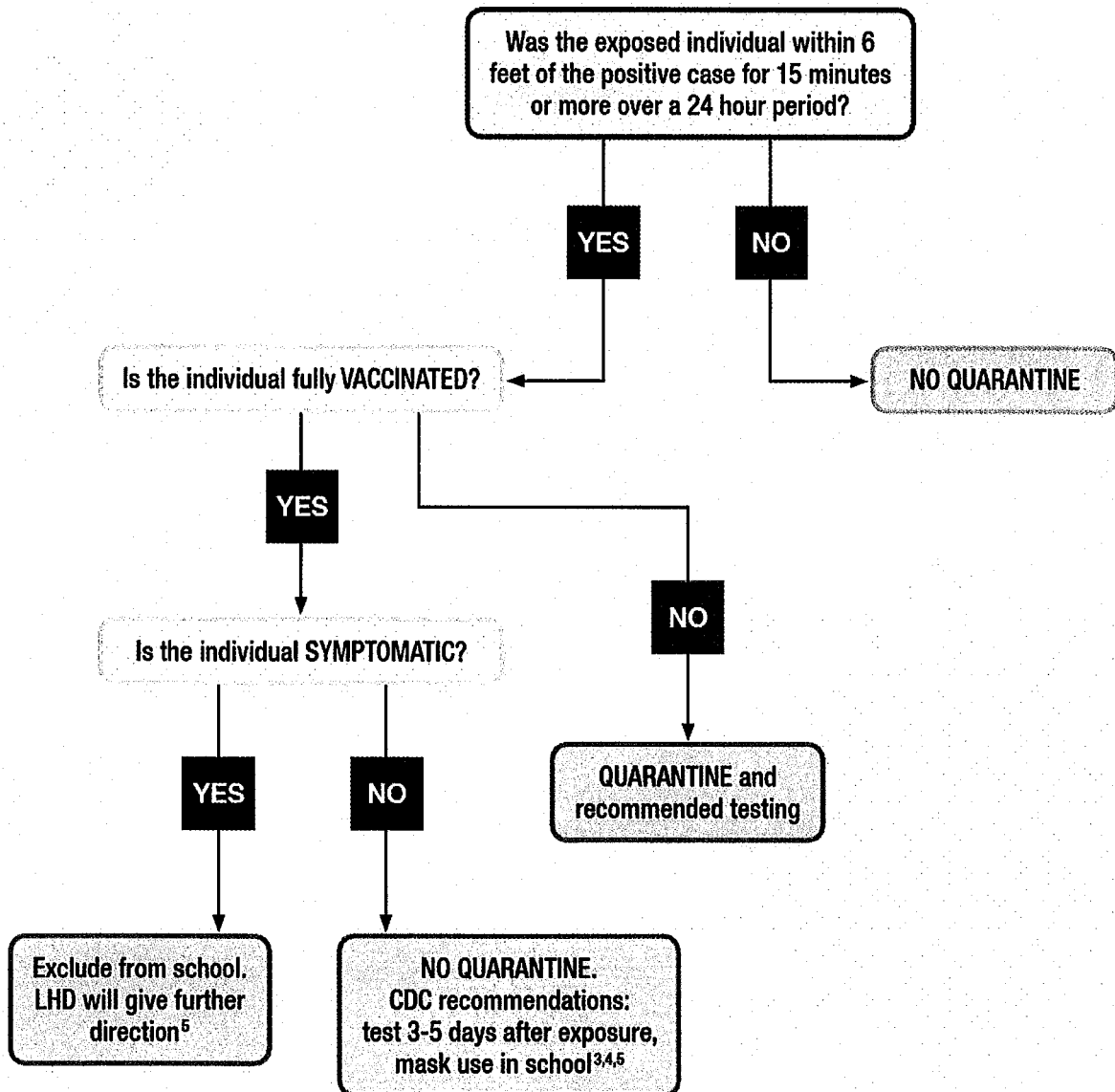
5. Notify parent/guardian of students exposure and CDC recommendations

* If and when CDC recommendations change this document will be updated

Adult Case/Student Contacts¹

Adult Case/Adult Contacts¹

Student Case/Adult Contacts¹



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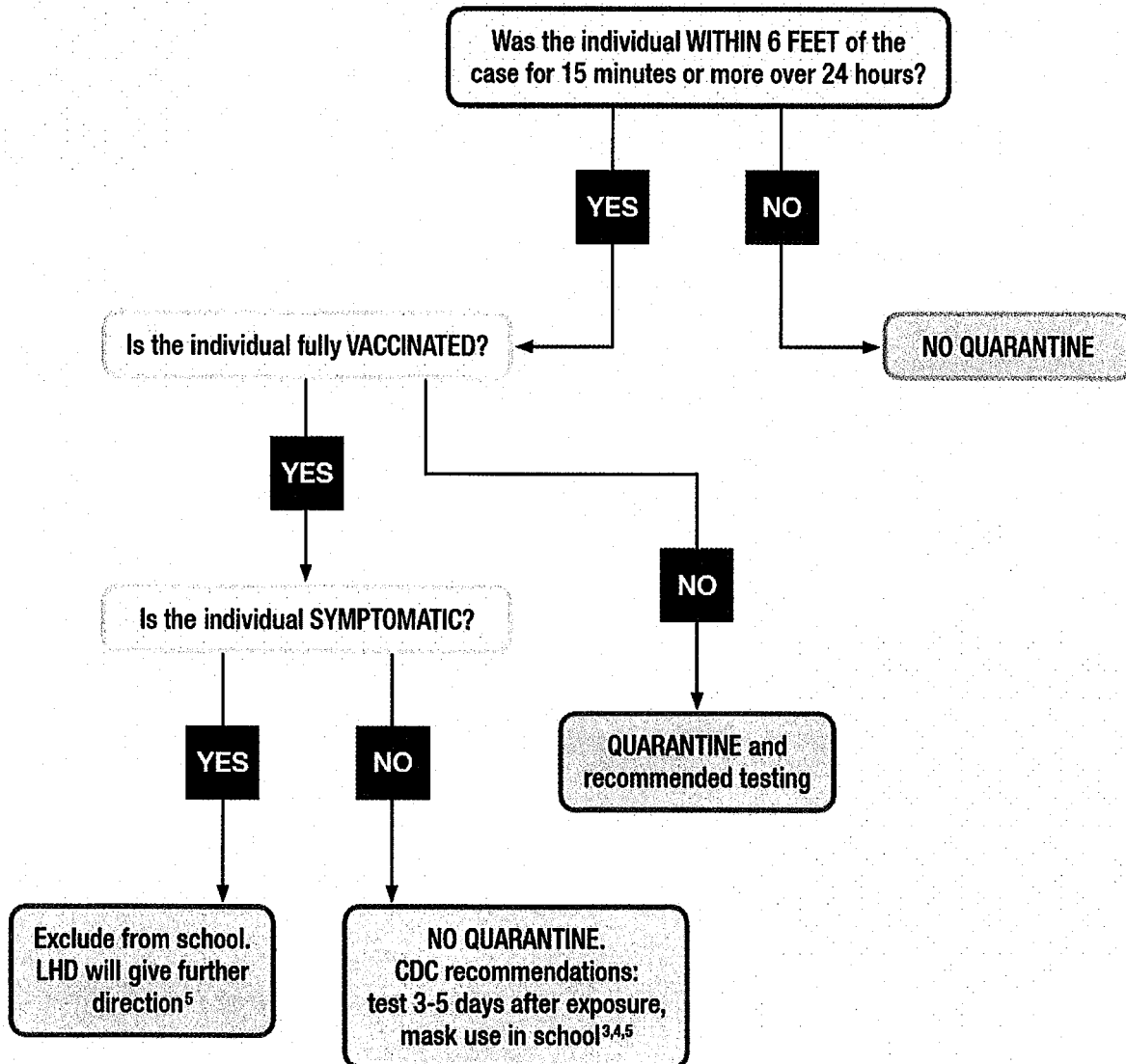
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Lunchroom¹



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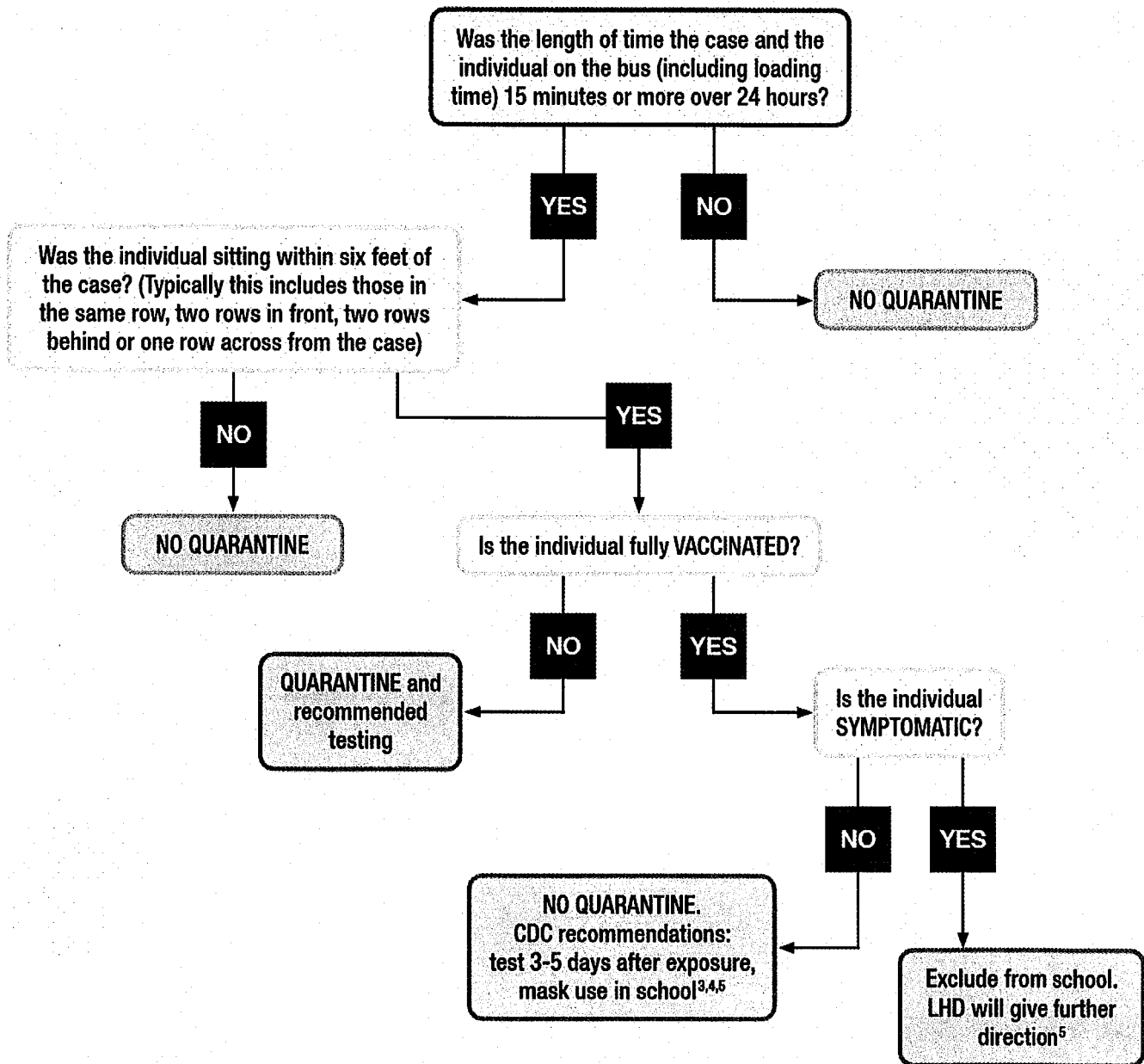
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Transportation¹

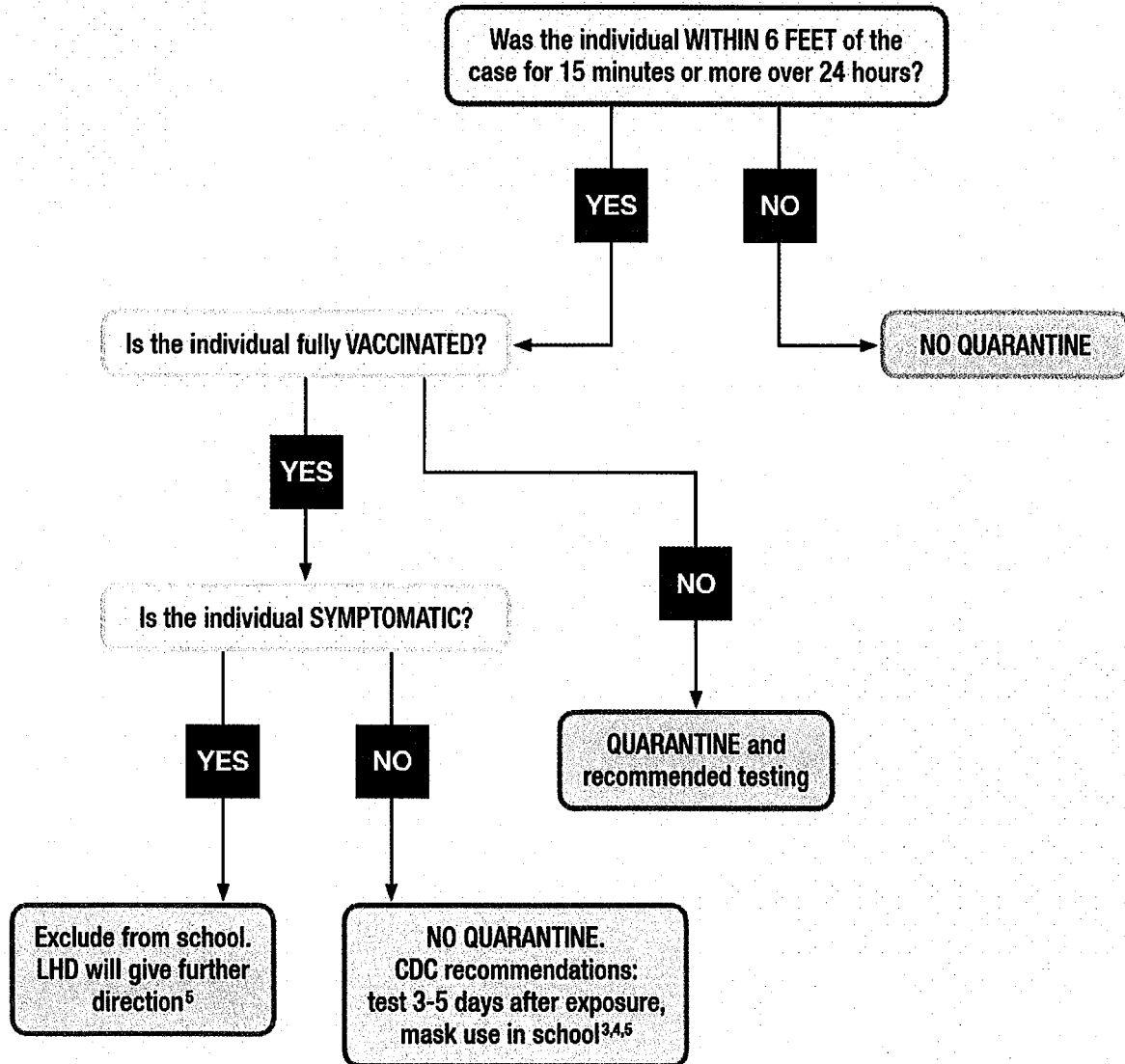
Requirements: Consistent and correct mask usage is required during the entire loading, transport, and disembarking process.
Recommendations: Windows open or at least cracked for the entire duration and assigned seats.



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 3. CDC guidance for testing fully vaccinated individuals after exposure: [CLICK HERE](#)
 4. At present, mask use in school is mandated in NYS per Regulation 10 nycrr 2.61
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Sports¹

Note: If school transportation was utilized, follow transportation algorithm for additional contact tracing.



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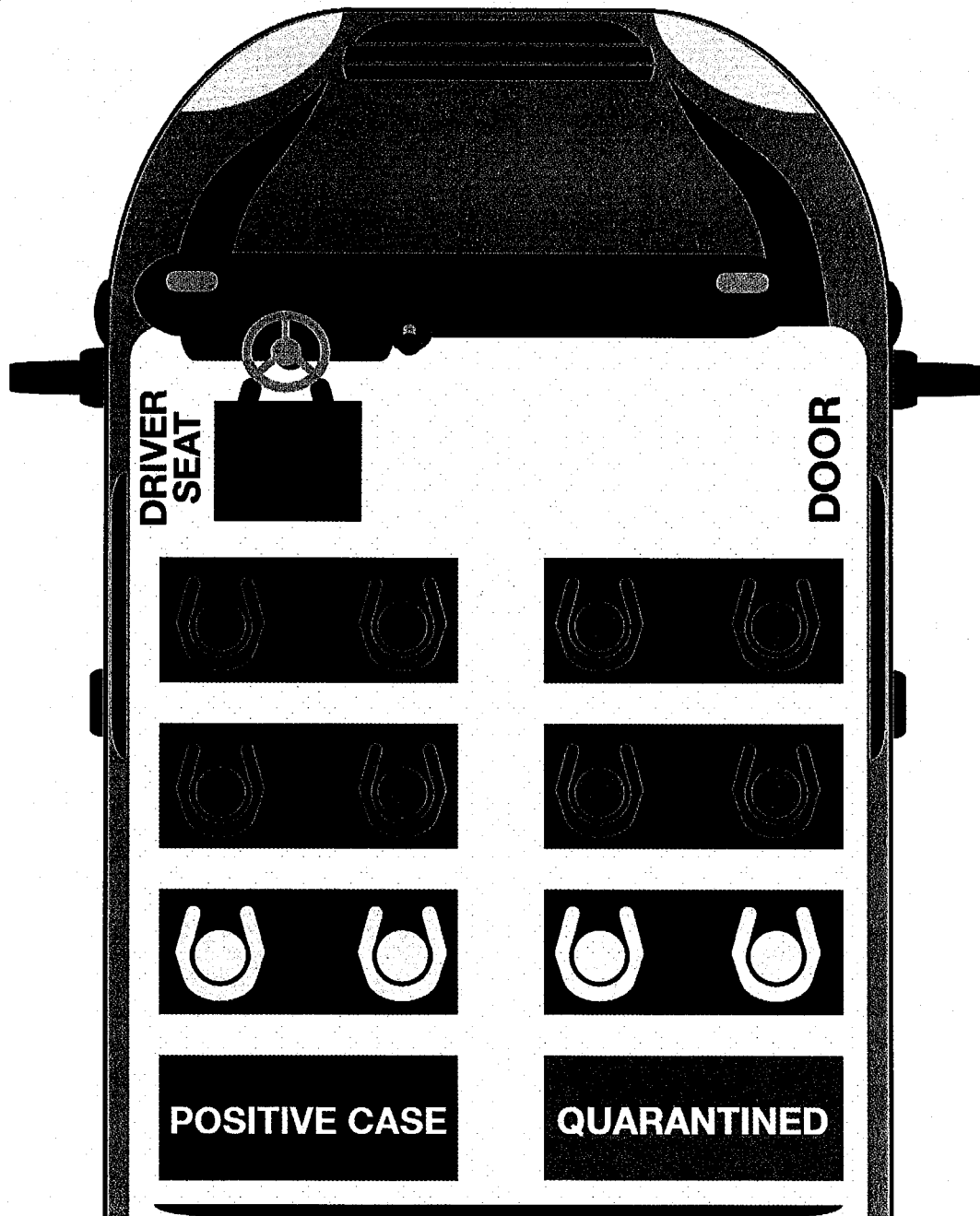
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Transportation Diagram: #A^{1,2}



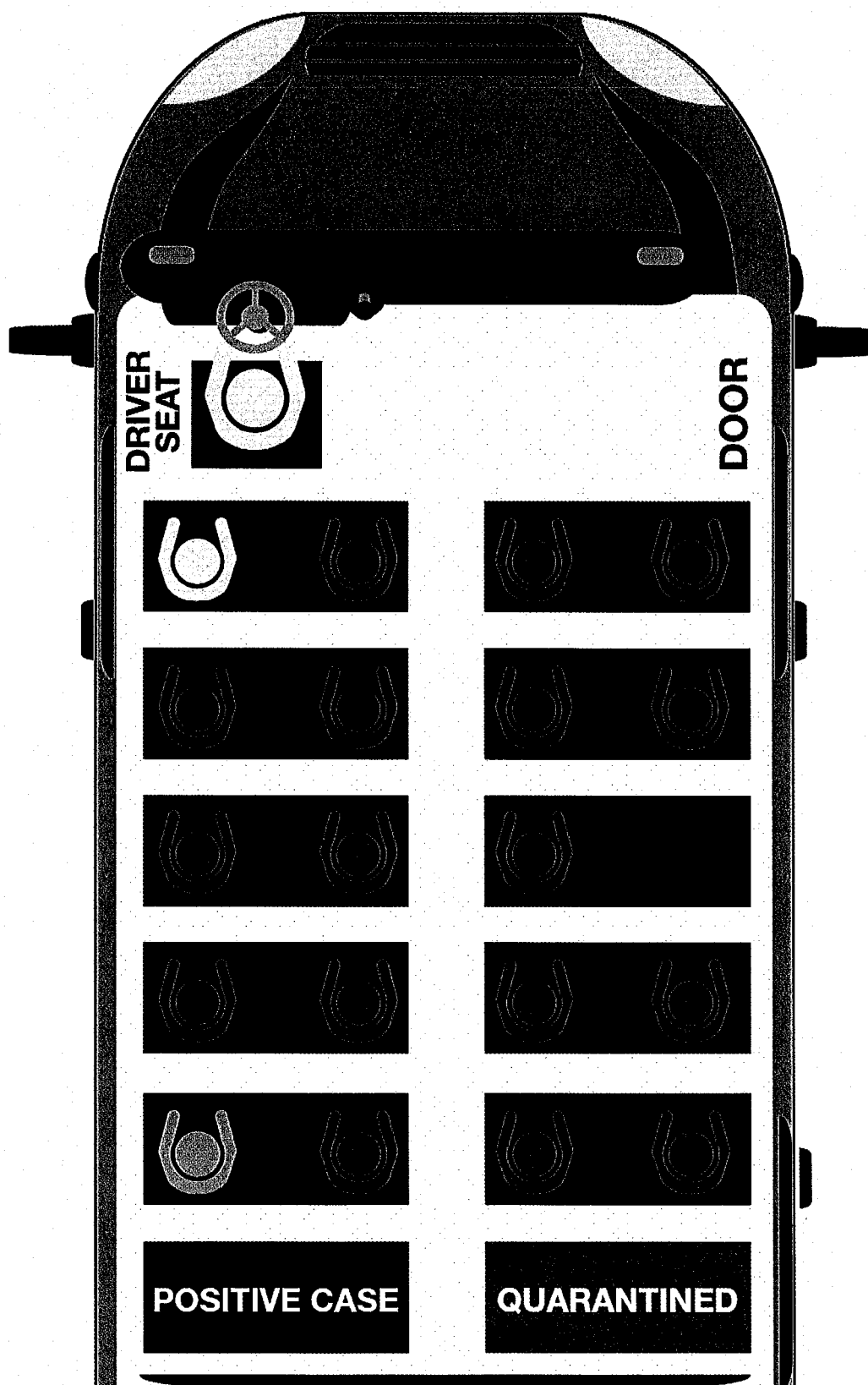
1. In general, this algorithm will be used to identify individuals who require isolation and/or quarantine/exclusion after a potential exposure. Ultimately, decisions will be made based on the LHD's review of all unique circumstances of the investigation.
2. Quarantine recommendations in the diagram may differ based on individual bus measurements.

Transportation Diagram: #B^{1,2}



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2. Quarantine recommendations in the diagram may differ based on individual bus measurements.

Transportation Diagram: #C^{1,2}



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