WHITEHALL CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
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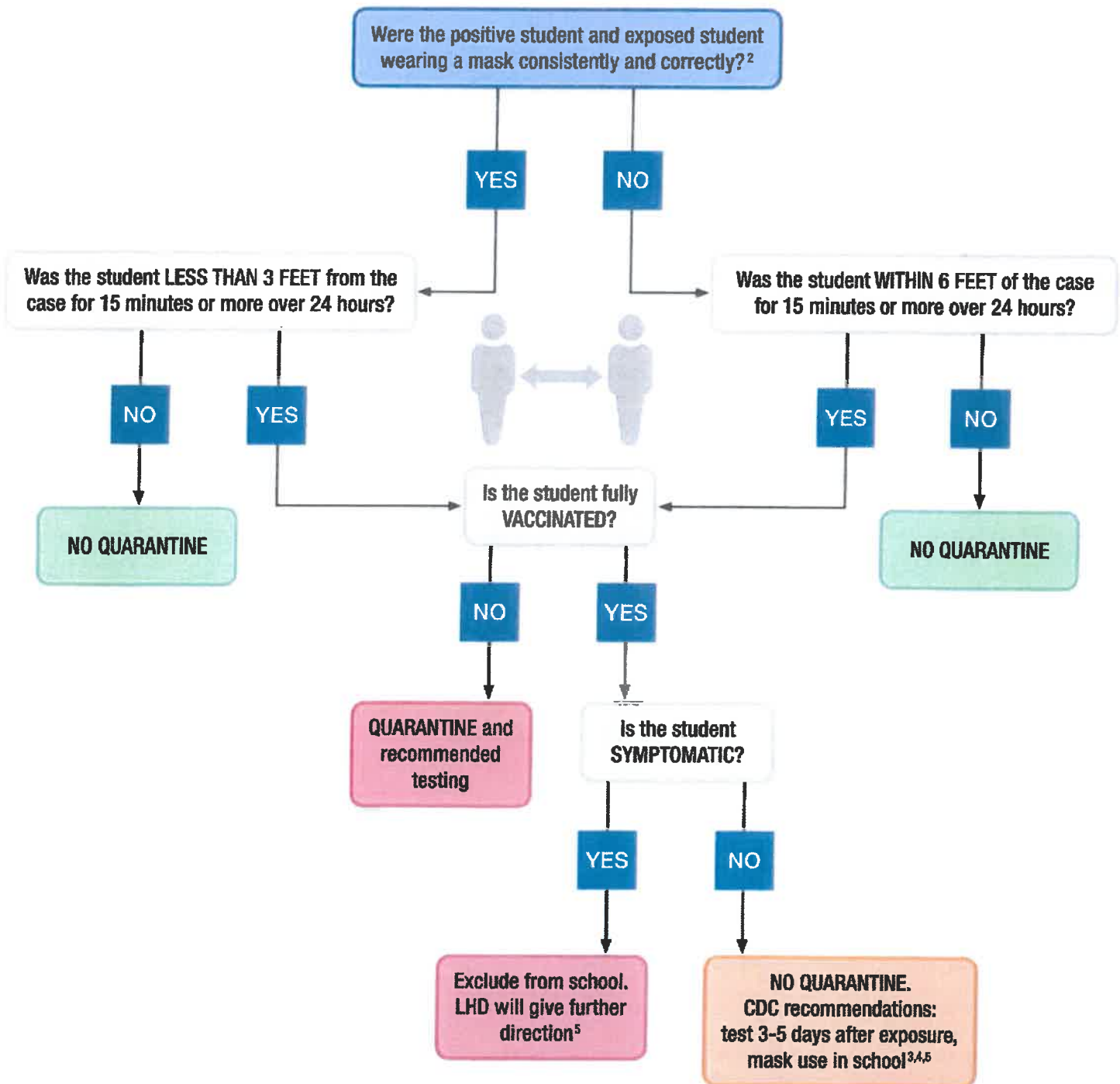518 499-1771
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In an effort to share the procedures that school districts are following relating to the COVID pandemic, below you will find numerous links to the requirements that have been set forth for New York State School Districts.

First and foremost, it is important to share that **school districts do not quarantine students, nor do school districts have the authority to remove students from quarantine**. These actions are taken by the County or State Health Departments. School districts are required to provide names of "close contacts" to the DOH based upon "Contact Tracing Algorithms" that you see below. Contact tracers from the DOH then reach out to families to determine which students must be quarantined. (It is IMPERATIVE that families answer calls from NYS Contact Tracing). If your children are immunized, it is important to share that information with the contact tracers as this will often keep the students from being quarantined.

Please be aware, there is often a delay between an exposure and notification by a contact tracer due to the timeline between an individual falling ill, being tested, having their results uploaded into the State Portal by the testing agency and ultimately a request to the school district from the State of County agency for a contact list. The county and state contact tracers are presently overwhelmed with positives in the region which is further slowing the process. This is why it is IMPERATIVE that parents keep children home who are displaying symptoms and have them tested as soon as possible.

Student Case/Student Contacts[1]

Were the positive student and exposed student wearing a mask consistently and correctly?[2]

- YES
- NO

Was the student LESS THAN 3 FEET from the case for 15 minutes or more over 24 hours?

- NO → **NO QUARANTINE**
- YES → Is the student fully VACCINATED?

Was the student WITHIN 6 FEET of the case for 15 minutes or more over 24 hours?

- YES → Is the student fully VACCINATED?
- NO → **NO QUARANTINE**

Is the student fully VACCINATED?

- NO → **QUARANTINE and recommended testing**
- YES → Is the student SYMPTOMATIC?

Is the student SYMPTOMATIC?

- YES → **Exclude from school. LHD will give further direction[5]**
- NO → **NO QUARANTINE. CDC recommendations: test 3-5 days after exposure, mask use in school[3,4,5]**
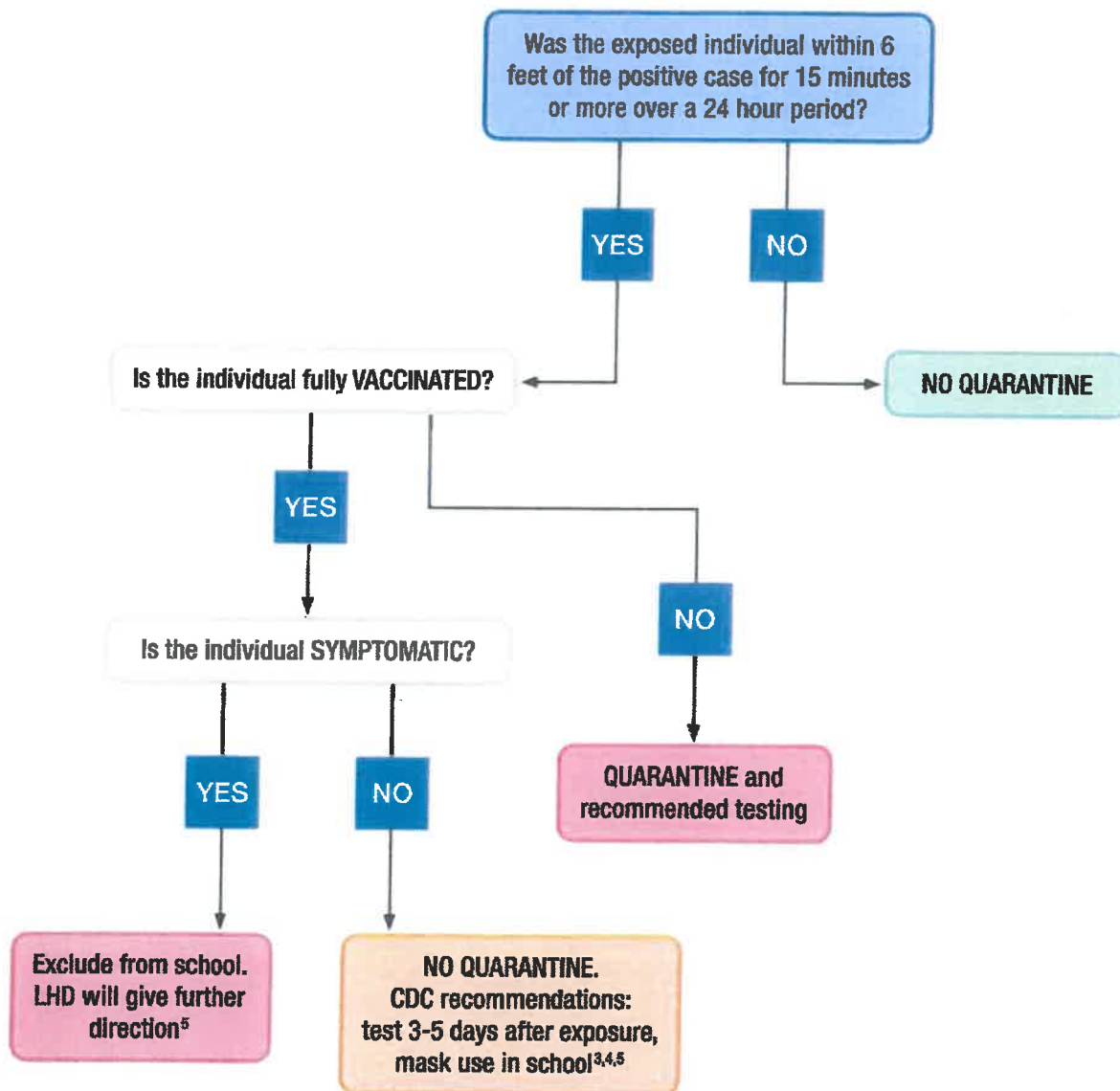
1. In general, this algorithm will be used to identify individuals who require isolation and/or quarantine/exclusion after a potential exposure. Ultimately, decisions will be made based on the LHD's review of all unique circumstances of the investigation.
2. CDC consistent and correct mask use: CLICK 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 Contacts[1]
Adult Case/Adult Contacts[1]
Student Case/Adult Contacts[1]

Was the exposed individual within 6 feet of the positive case for 15 minutes or more over a 24 hour period?

YES → **NO**

NO → **NO QUARANTINE**

Is the individual fully VACCINATED?

YES

NO → **QUARANTINE and recommended testing**

Is the individual SYMPTOMATIC?

YES → **Exclude from school. LHD will give further direction[5]**

NO → **NO QUARANTINE. CDC recommendations: test 3-5 days after exposure, mask use in school[3,4,5]**

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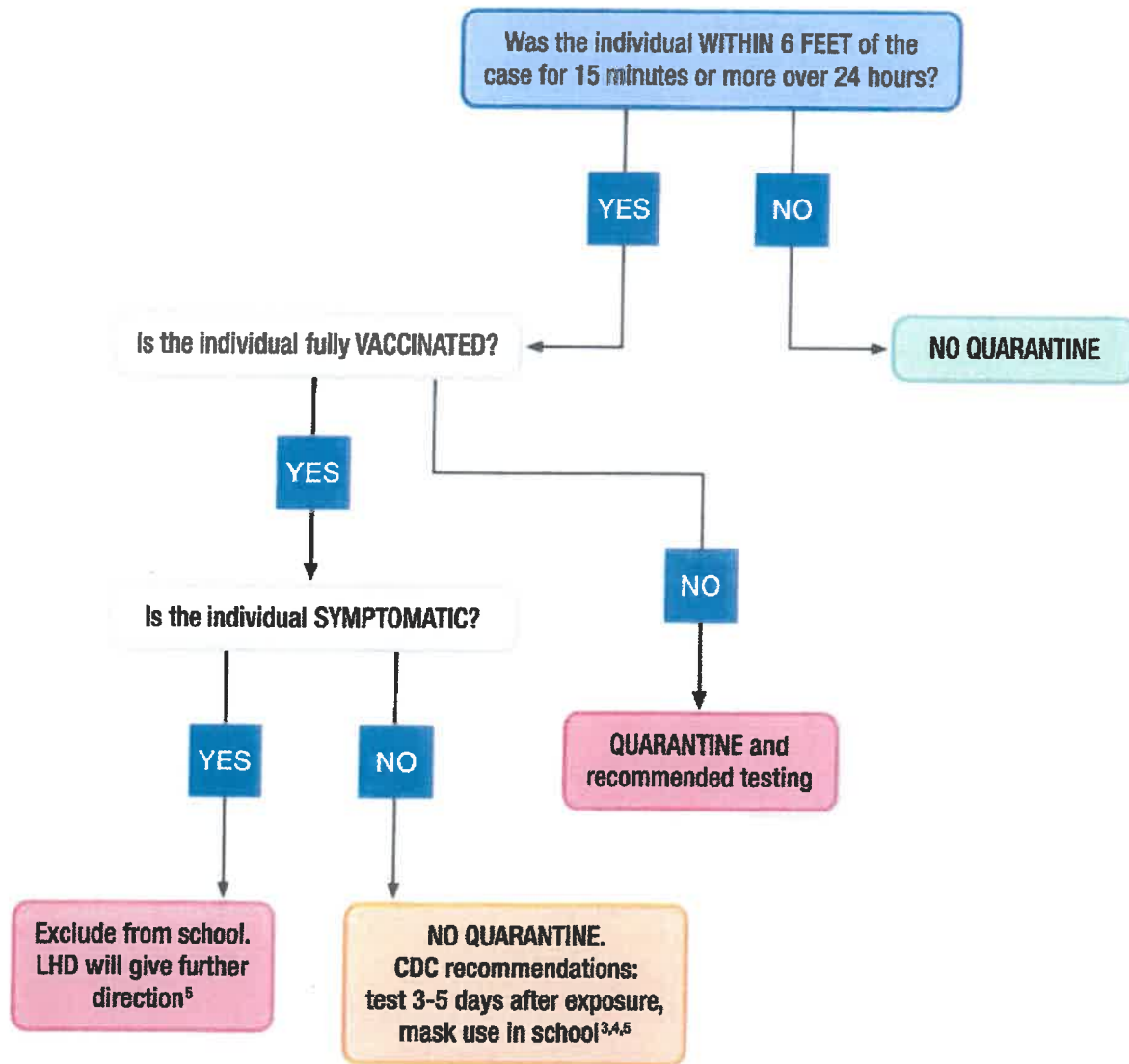2. CDC consistent and correct mask use: **CLICK HERE**
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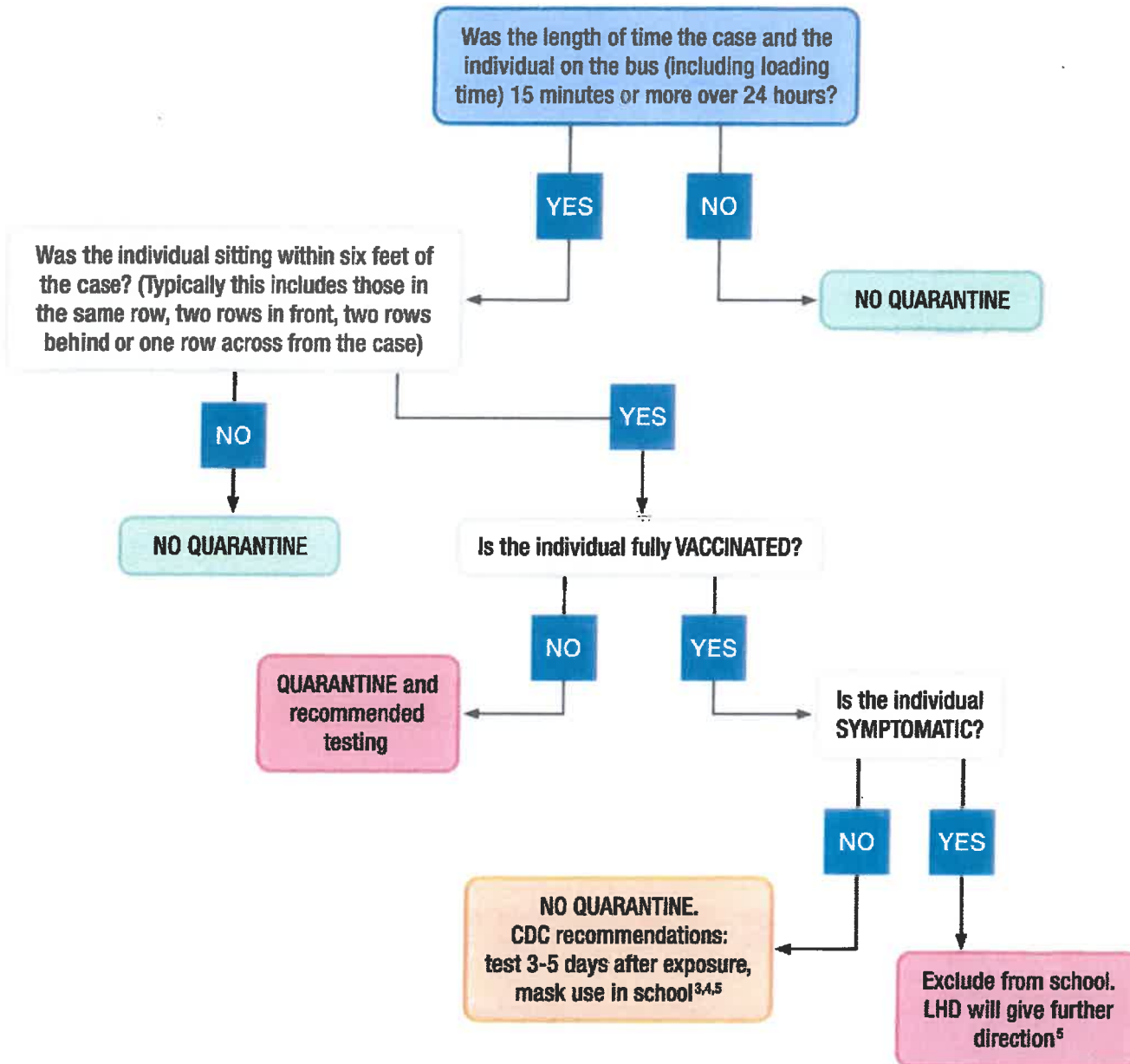
Lunchroom[1]

Was the individual WITHIN 6 FEET of the case for 15 minutes or more over 24 hours?

- YES
- NO

YES → **Is the individual fully VACCINATED?**

NO → **NO QUARANTINE**

Is the individual fully VACCINATED?
- YES
- NO

YES → **Is the individual SYMPTOMATIC?**

NO → **QUARANTINE and recommended testing**

Is the individual SYMPTOMATIC?
- YES
- NO

YES → **Exclude from school. LHD will give further direction[5]**

NO → **NO QUARANTINE. CDC recommendations: test 3-5 days after exposure, mask use in school[3,4,5]**

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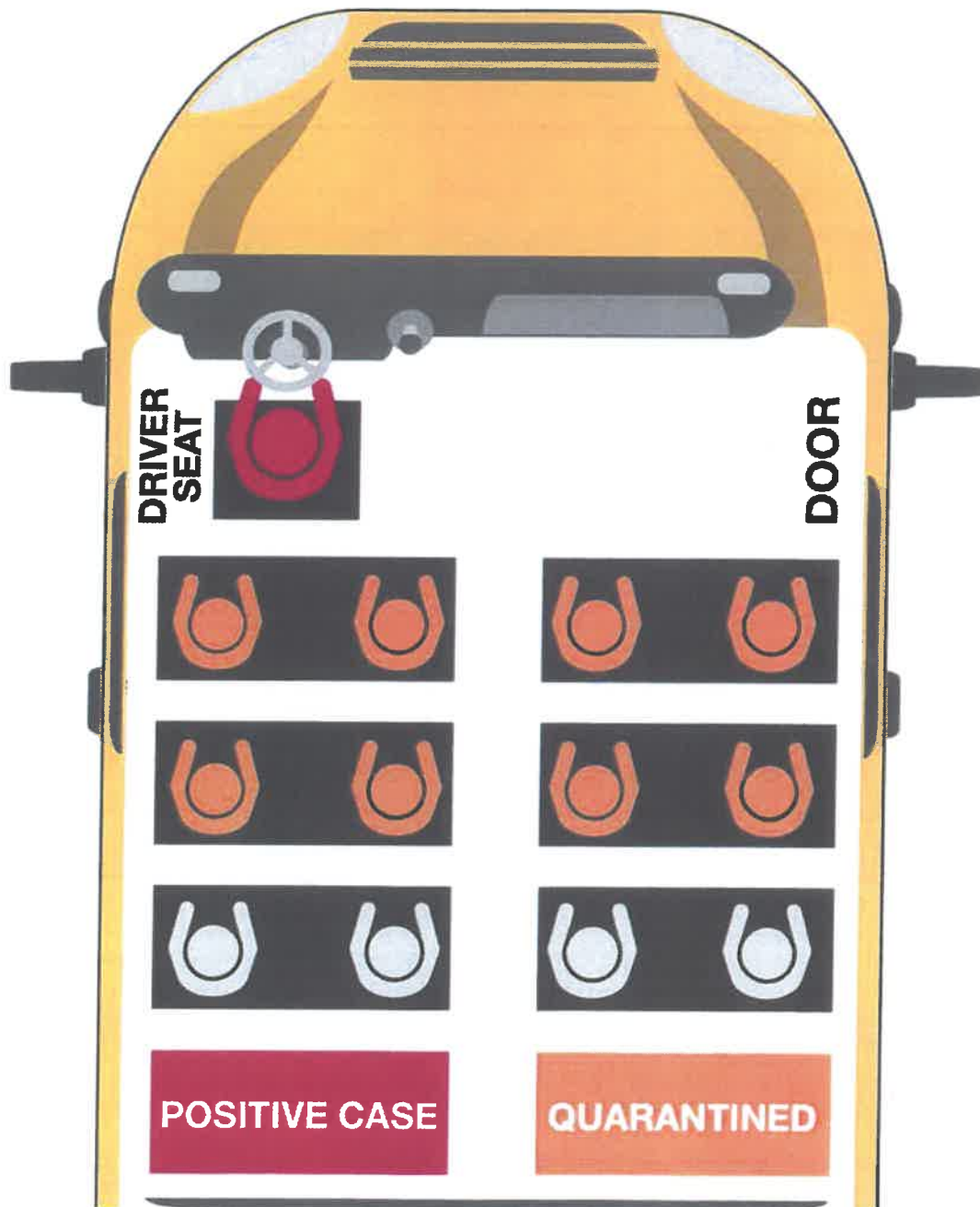3. CDC guidance for testing fully vaccinated individuals after exposure: CLICK HERE
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Transportation[1]

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.

Was the length of time the case and the individual on the bus (including loading time) 15 minutes or more over 24 hours?

YES / **NO**

NO → NO QUARANTINE

Was the individual sitting within six feet of the case? (Typically this includes those in the same row, two rows in front, two rows behind or one row across from the case)

NO → NO QUARANTINE

YES → Is the individual fully VACCINATED?

NO → QUARANTINE and recommended testing

YES → Is the individual SYMPTOMATIC?

NO → NO QUARANTINE. CDC recommendations: test 3-5 days after exposure, mask use in school[3,4,5]

YES → Exclude from school. LHD will give further direction[5]

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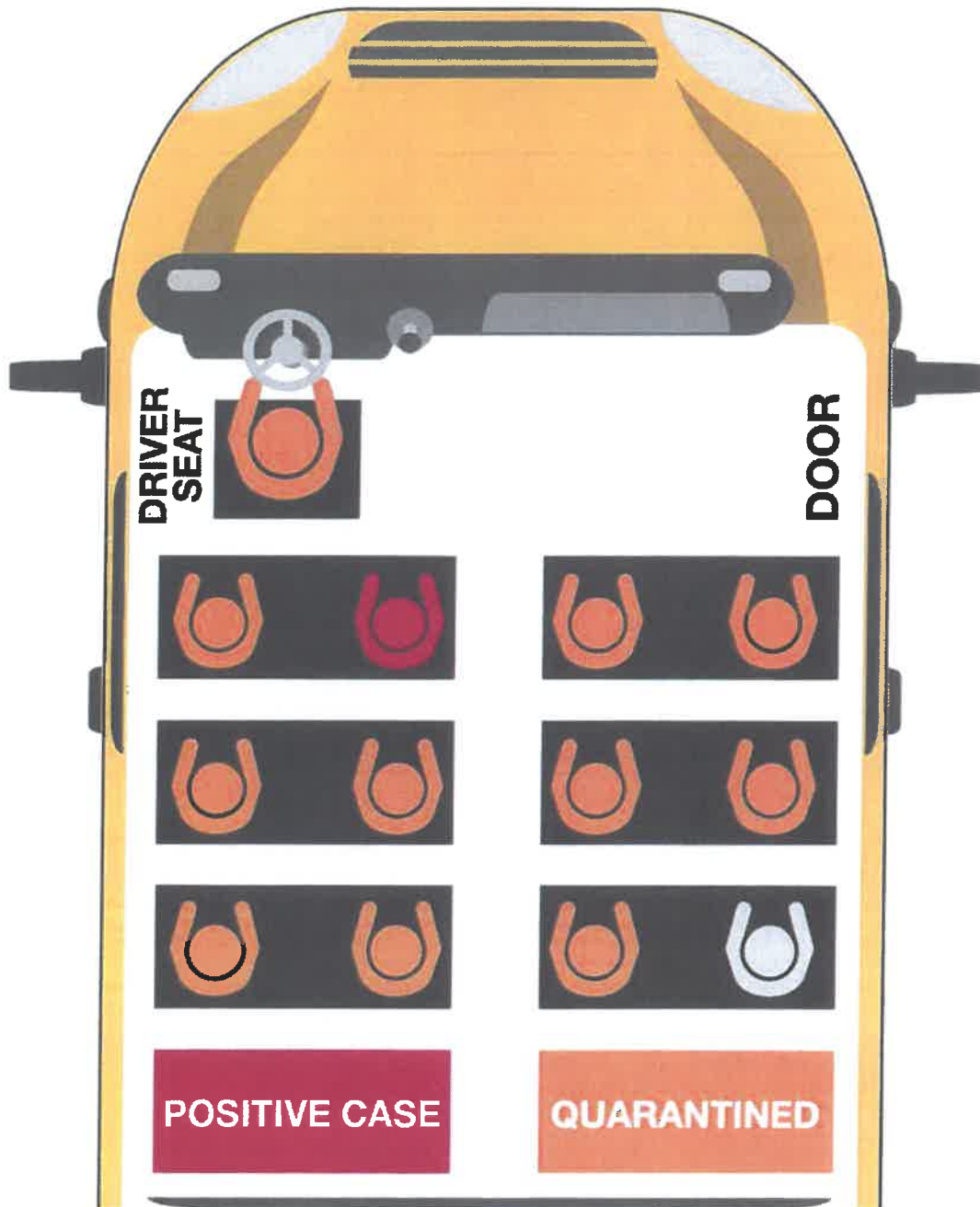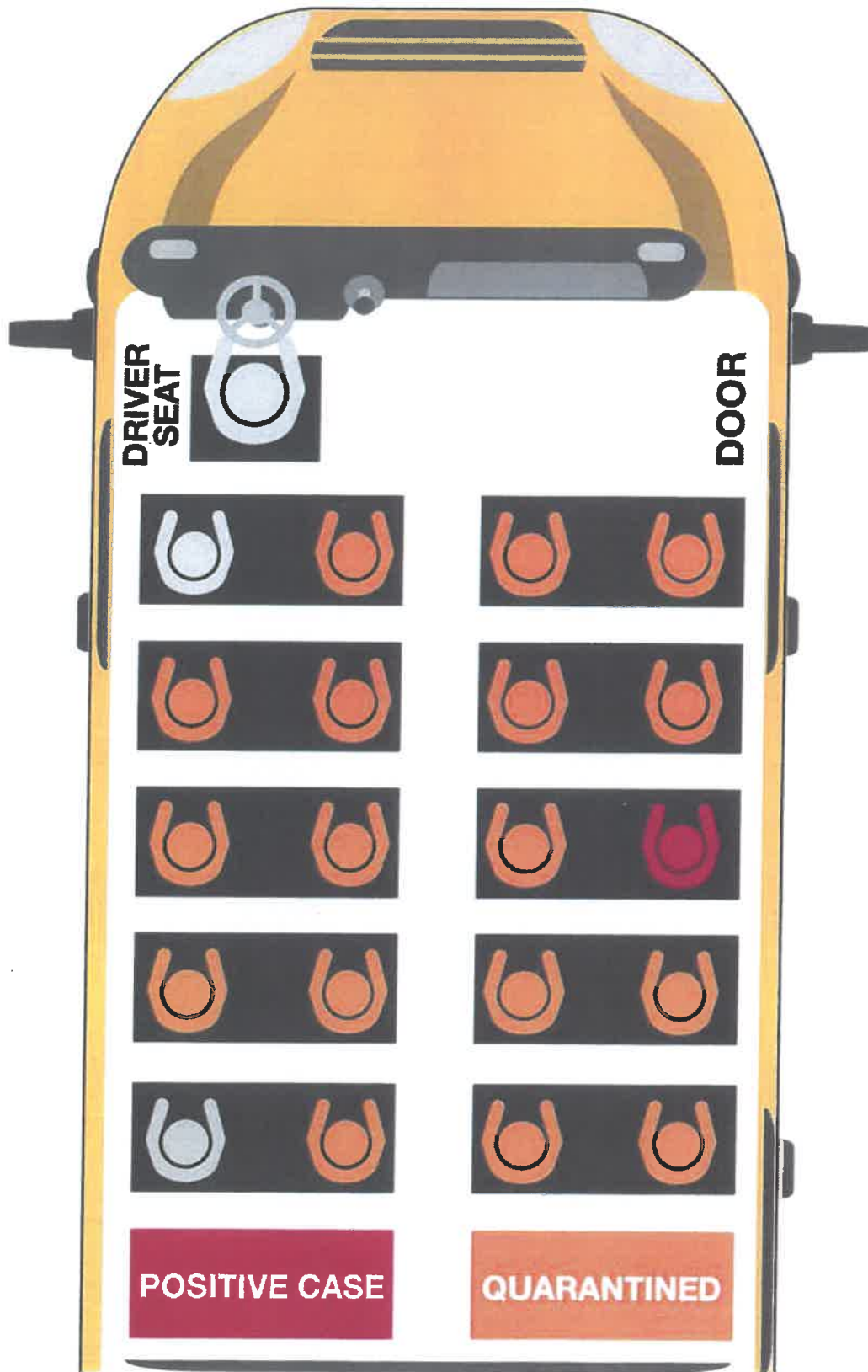5. Notify parent/guardian of students exposure and CDC recommendations
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Transportation Diagram: #A[1,2]

DRIVER SEAT

DOOR

POSITIVE CASE

QUARANTINED

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]

DRIVER SEAT

DOOR

POSITIVE CASE

QUARANTINED

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: #C[1,2]

DRIVER SEAT

DOOR

POSITIVE CASE

QUARANTINED

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

Additional Resources

- Your Guide to Masks
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html

- NYS Department of Health Commissioner's Determination on Indoor Masking
https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/08/2.61_determination_0.pdf

- Emergency Regulations on Masking promulgated by the NYS Department of Health
https://regs.health.ny.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/emergency_regulations/Face%20Coverings%20for%20COVID%2019%20Prevention.pdf

- NYS Department of Health Commissioner's Determination on Testing
https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/09/2.62-determination.pdf

- Emergency Regulations on Testing and Reporting Promulgated by the NYS Department of Health
https://regs.health.ny.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/emergency_regulations/COVID-19%20Reporting%20and%20Testing.pdf

- Centers for Disease Control Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html

- Centers for Disease Control Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html

- Centers for Disease Control Appendices https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.html#contact

- CDC Order for Masks on Buses
https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/masks/mask-travel-guidance.html

- American Academy of Pediatrics COVID-19 Guidance for Safe Schools
https://www.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/

- NYS Education Department Health and Safety Guide for the 2021-2022 School Year
http://www.nysed.gov/back-school/health-and-safety-guide-2021-2022-school-year

• Statement from New York State Department of Health Commissioner
https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/statement-new-york-state-department-health-commissioner-dr-howard-zucker

• NYS Department of Health Vaccination Tracker by Zip Code
https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/vaccination-rates-zip-code

• NYS Department of Health Percent Positive Tracker
https://forward.ny.gov/percentage-positive-results-county-dashboard

• NYS Department of Health Progress on Combating COVID-19
https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-updates-new-yorkers-states-progress-combating-covid-19-1

• Centers for Disease Control Community Transmission Rate
https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view