RPCS COVID-19 Decision Making Chart Protecting the Health of our Community

For the purposes of this decision aid, COVID-19-like illness is defined as: New onset cough or shortness of breath OR At least 2 of the following: fever of 100 F or higher, chills, shivering, muscle pain, sore throat, headache, loss of sense of taste or smell, and gastrointestinal symptoms (nausea, vomiting or diarrhea). NOTE: This definition was adapted from the clinical criteria in the **CDC case definition of a probable case of COVID-19**.

Person (child, care provider, educator, other staff) with **one new** symptom not meeting the definition of COVID-19-like illness.

Separate person and allow return when symptoms have improved. If person develops symptoms of COVID-19-like illness, follow processes below for person with COVID-19-like illness.

An **asymptomatic person** (child, care provider, educator, other staff) tests positive for COVID-19.

The asymptomatic person should stay home for 10 days from positive test.

Person (child, care provider, educator, other staff) with COVID-19-like illness.

- Separate person and require that they talk to their health care provider about testing for COVID-19 or whether there is another specific diagnosis.
- The person should isolate pending test results or evaluation by their health care provider.
- Close contacts to the ill person may be separated from school and may be quarantined per CDC guidelines.

Person has positive test for COVID-19.

Person does not receive a laboratory test or another specific diagnosis by their health care provider.

Person has negative test for COVID-19.

Health care provider documents that the person has another specific diagnosis (e.g. influenza, strep throat, otitis) or health care provider documents that symptoms are related to a pre-existing condition. The ill person should stay home at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared **and** until no fever for at least **72 hours** without medication **and** improvement of other symptoms.

The person should stay home until symptoms have improved. Person should consider being tested/retested for COVID-19 if symptoms do not improve. Close contacts should stay home for 14 days from the date of last exposure even if they have no symptoms or receive a negative COVID-19 test.

Close contacts do not need to stay home as long as they remain asymptomatic.

Close contact can be defined as siblings, members of carpool, as well as anyone defined by the health department. **Review the CDC's definition of close contact here.** Variables may occur based on age of child and changing recommendations from the health department and CDC. This chart was developed under the guidance of the MSDE and CDC.