Antigen Test Algorithm

cdc.gov/coronavirus

Symptomatic

- Antigen (+)
- Antigen (-)[3]
  - Confirm by NAAT[7]
    - NAAT (+)
    - NAAT (-)
      - Known Contact?[8]
        - Yes
        - No

Asymptomatic and Close Contact with COVID-19[1]

- Antigen (+)[4]
  - Confirm by NAAT[7]
    - NAAT (+)
    - NAAT (-)
- Antigen (-)[5]

Asymptomatic and No Known Exposure[2]

- Antigen (+)
  - Confirm by NAAT[7]
    - NAAT (+)
    - NAAT (-)
- Antigen (-)[6]

Infected with SARS-CoV-2[9]

No current evidence of infection[10]

Not Infected with SARS-CoV-2

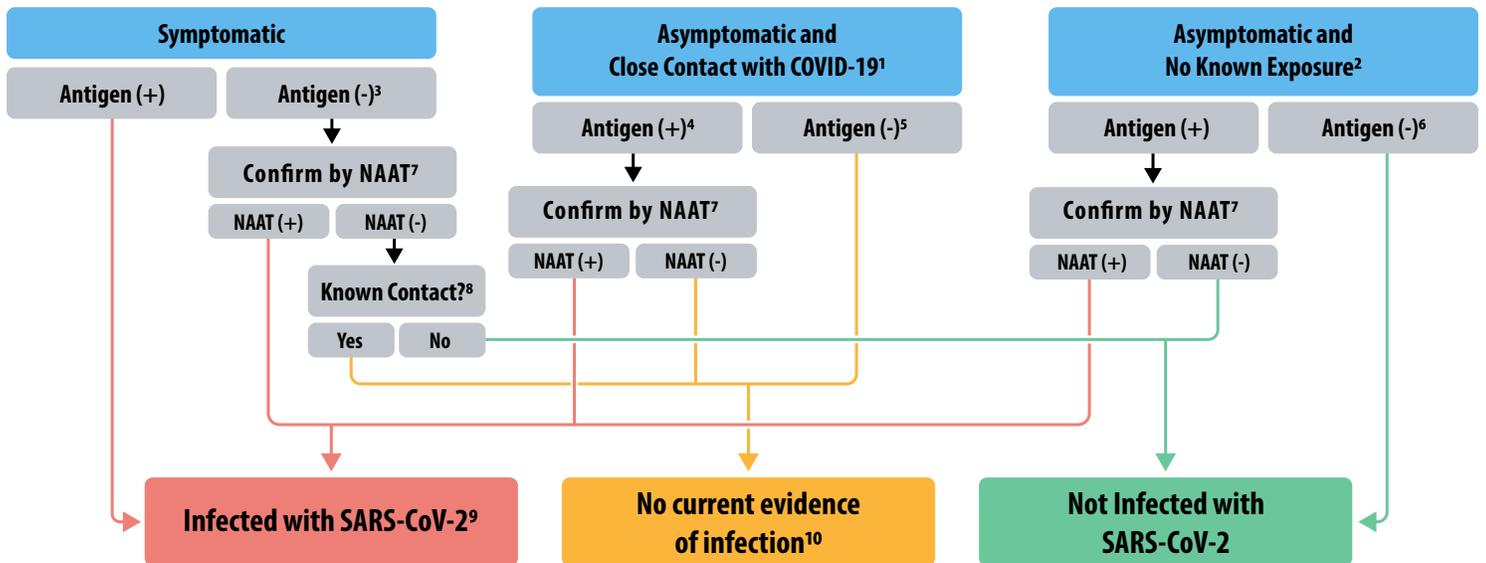[1] Single, multiple, or continuous known exposure to a person with COVID-19 within the last 14 days; perform NAAT first if short turnaround time is available, if person cannot be effectively and safely quarantined, or if there are barriers to possible confirmatory testing.

[2] No known exposure to a person with COVID-19 within the last 14 days.

[3] If a symptomatic person has a low likelihood of SARS-CoV-2 infection, clinical discretion should determine if this negative antigen test result requires confirmatory testing.

[4] In instances of higher pretest probability, such as high incidence of incidence of infection in the community, clinical discretion should determine if this positive antigen result requires confirmation.

[5] In certain settings, serial antigen testing could be considered for those with a negative antigen test result; serial testing may not require confirmation of negative results. The role of a negative antigen test result in ending quarantine depends upon when it is performed in the quarantine period. See CDC's Options to Reduce Quarantine for guidance on use of antigen testing for this purpose and when a negative antigen test result indicates not infected with SARS-CoV-2.

[6] If prevalence of infection is not low in the community, clinical discretion should consider whether this negative antigen result requires confirmation.

[7] Nucleic acid amplification test; confirm within 48 hours using a NAAT, such as RT-PCR, that has been evaluated against FDA's reference panel for analytical sensitivity.

[8] Known exposure to a person with COVID-19 within the last 14 days; if unsure, clinical discretion should determine whether isolation is necessary.

[9] Isolation is necessary. See CDC's guidance for Isolation.

[10] Quarantine is necessary. See CDC's guidance for Quarantine; clinical discretion should determine if and when additional testing is necessary.