

The guidelines for COVID-19 are constantly updated following regular communications from the governmental authorities. These rules and guidelines are frequently amended and shared periodically with all our community to ensure the safety of our students and employees.

You can find KHDA's and DHA's COVID-19 guidelines published on their website, and they are summarized for you in the vital document. Also, kindly keep an eye out for the updated protocol on the school's website.

## Protocol if sick:

- If a student is unwell, the student must be kept at home until he/she is fit enough to return to school and is completely symptom-free for at least 24 hours without the use of medications.  
This is essential to prevent the spread of communicable diseases, while also allowing the child to recover fully.
- Email the class teacher or grade coordinator, the secretary to the section, as well as [health@sisd.ae](mailto:health@sisd.ae) or [clinic@sisd.ae](mailto:clinic@sisd.ae), explaining your child's illness/reason for absence.
- Staff will follow SISD COVID-19 and Sick Leave policies provided by the HR.
- For queries regarding COVID-19,
  - Email: [health@sisd.ae](mailto:health@sisd.ae)
- For other medical queries but not related to COVID-19,
  - Email: [clinic@sisd.ae](mailto:clinic@sisd.ae)
- The child or staff will not be allowed back in school without a medical certificate / medical note / sick leave detailing that the child/staff is fit to return to school.
- In cases where the student had symptoms related to COVID-19 (Influenza-like symptoms), parents would have to **provide a negative PCR test as well as a medical clearance certificate for their child** from their DHA/DHCC licensed doctor.

## A parent's / staff's responsibility:

It is the parent's responsibility to check the temperature and the wellbeing of their children and make sure they are not sick before coming to school.

Remember the following:

- Check the temperature of your child every morning as they can only enter the school if it is below 37.5°C, and that your child is not having any symptoms of COVID-19 (below)
- Keep your child home and report it to the school if your child is not feeling well

It is also the parent's responsibility to keep children home in case they are awaiting the results of COVID-19 PCR test and to inform the school promptly.

It is the responsibility of staff to check their temperatures every day and make sure they are not sick before coming to school.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### ➤ *Who is a COVID-19 Suspected Case?*

A Suspected Case is a person who presents with:

- **Upper or Lower respiratory symptoms, with or without fever of  $\geq 37.5$ , like:**
  - cough
  - sneezing
  - runny nose
  - nasal congestion
  - headache
  - loss of taste or smell
  - sore throat
  - shortness of breath / difficulty in breathing
  - body aches
  - muscle pain
  - diarrhea
  - nausea and/or vomiting
- **AND any one of the following conditions:**
  - International travel history during the 14 days prior to symptoms onset
  - Been in contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case within 14 days
  - Residing in a community setting where COVID-19 cases have been detected
  - Cases of Influenza-like illness without history of travel or known possible exposure

This student or person should be kept at home and not sent to school or should be immediately picked up from school if identified by the Clinic Team.

**Please be reminded that having even one of the previous signs and symptoms will be suspected of having COVID-19, and the school will have to follow all necessary steps as per the authorities' guidelines.**

### ➤ *What to do then?*

Follow the **protocol for a suspected/symptomatic case:**

- **Protocol for a Suspected Case (Student / Staff)**
  1. Keep the child / person home and do not send him/her to school
  2. Seek medical attention urgently from their treating physician, or call DHA at 800 342
  3. Email the class teacher/grade coordinator, the secretary to the section, as well as [health@sisd.ae](mailto:health@sisd.ae)
  4. Do a PCR test for COVID-19
  5. Obtain a medical clearance certificate from their treating physician and make sure child is feeling better and is not showing any symptoms of COVID-19
  6. Share both the PCR test result and the medical clearance certificate with School Clinic Team at [health@sisd.ae](mailto:health@sisd.ae)
  7. Be symptom-free for 24 hours before returning to the school, and notify the Clinic Team
  8. Understand that the Clinic Team will check the child / staff in the Holding Area before resuming school

➤ **What do you mean by a Confirmed COVID-19 Case?**

A confirmed COVID-19 case is a person with a positive polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test result for COVID-19 infection that is reported by an approved laboratory, irrespective of clinical signs and symptoms.

➤ **Who is a COVID-19 Close Contact?**

A Close Contact is a person who has had exposure to a person with COVID-19, from 2 days before the onset illness/date of positive swab to 10 days after. This excludes individuals who have had COVID-19 diagnosed by PCR within the past 3 months prior to the exposure.

➤ **What do you mean by Exposure to a COVID-19 case?**

Exposure is defined as:

- Being within one (1) meter of a COVID-19 case for 15 minutes or more
- Direct physical contact with a COVID-19 case
- Providing direct care for patients with COVID-19 disease either at home or in the healthcare setting
- Living in the same household as a COVID-19 case

➤ **What is Contact Tracing?**

One of the most important interventions to interrupt the transmission of COVID-19 is contact tracing. It is done by identifying persons who may have close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case. Contact tracing will start if a suspected case is confirmed to be positive. This is carried out by the Health & Safety Committee and the School Leadership Team.

➤ **What is the difference between isolation and quarantine?**

- **Isolation:** is the separation of ill people who have an infectious disease from those who are healthy so they can start the treatment journey without infecting others. Isolation is reserved for confirmed COVID-19 cases
- **Quarantine:** is the restriction of movement of those who may have been exposed to an infectious disease but do not have a confirmed medical diagnosis to ensure they are not infected.

➤ **What if my child got sick during school?**

If a student is feeling unwell during class, he/she will be sent to the clinic for a check-up. If found to be showing any of the COVID-19 related symptoms (mentioned above), **the parents will be called to pick up the student and follow the protocol for a suspected case / symptomatic student.**

Parents should pick up their children **within 30 minutes** from being called.

- *What if I did the PCR test for myself, my child, or a member of my household, and I am waiting for the results? My child is fine and does not have any symptoms, and I want to send him/her to school.*

**Do NOT send your child to school if you, your child, or a member of your household has undergone a PCR test for COVID-19 and is waiting for the result.**

- Results usually take 24 to 48 hours to be reported.
- Please email the Clinic at **health@sisd.ae as well as the secretary to the section**, informing us that you are keeping your children at home because you are waiting for the result of the PCR test for COVID-19 for your child or a member of your household.
- Your children can rejoin school once you receive the negative result and have shared it with the Clinic Team (health@sisd.ae).

- *What if I as a parent, or a member of the household, did the PCR test for COVID-19 and it came back positive, but my child is without any symptoms and has tested negative; can I still send my child to school?*

**Do NOT send your child to school if you or a member of your household has undergone a PCR test for COVID-19 and it came back as positive for COVID-19, even if your child has tested negative and is fine and without any symptoms.**

**In this case, your child is considered as a close contact of a positive case.**

As per the current guidelines from the governmental authorities, you must not send your child to school when someone in your household is confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19.

Also, please find the excerpt from the **KHDA** below:

**“A member of our household has tested positive for Covid-19. Can I still send my child to school?”**

If someone in your household has Covid-19, or is suspected of having Covid-19, you must protect your community and notify your child’s school. **Do not send** your child to school. Dubai Health Authority will advise you on how to keep yourself and others safe during this time. Your child’s school will provide distance learning for the period your child is unable to attend face-to-face learning.”

- *Is it possible to have the flu and COVID-19 at the same time?*

It is technically possible to have both influenza (the flu) or any other respiratory infection and COVID-19 at the same time. This is called a “COVID-19 and influenza co-infection”. Since both may present with very similar symptoms, it is important to test for both influenza and COVID-19 to differentiate between them and help curb down transmission. Therefore, testing is very important.

➤ **What do I do after my child returned from travelling abroad and would like to resume school?**

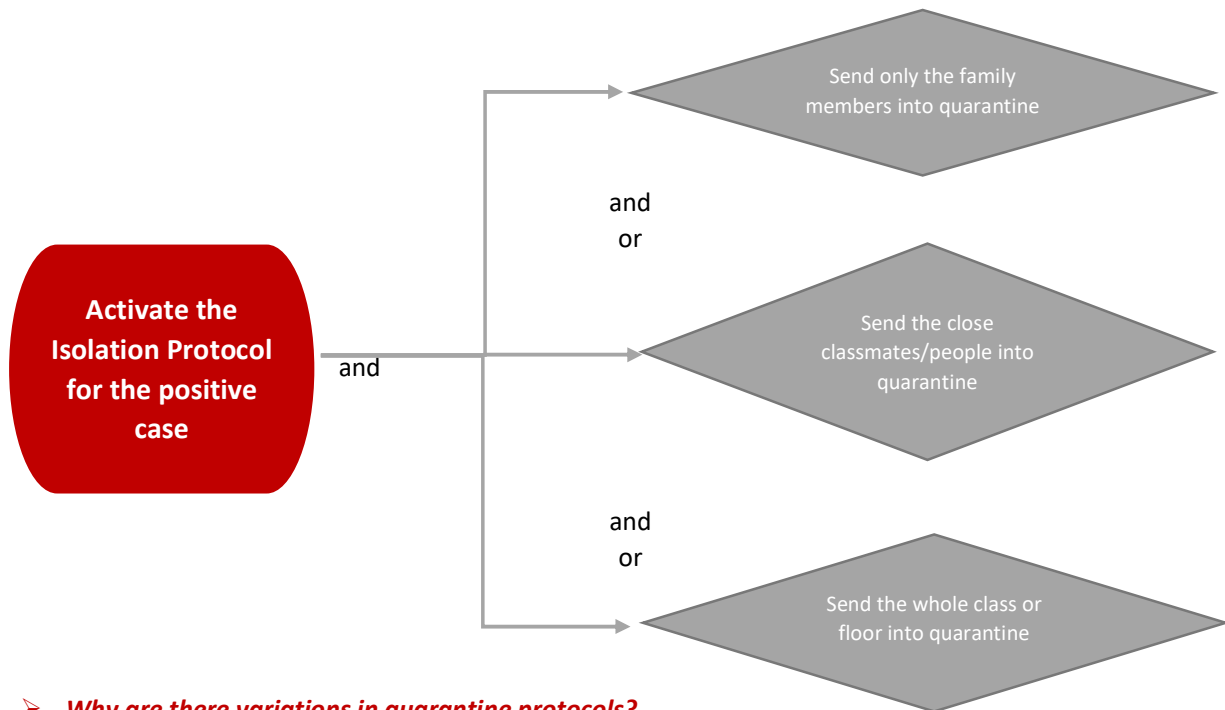
- Staff and students can resume school normally following return from travel provided they are free of symptoms of COVID-19, without the need for PCR testing or travel declarations.

Please know that travel guidelines may change depending on the updates from the KHDA and the authorities. These updates will be promptly communicated to all parents on our website.

➤ **What are the different variations in quarantine protocols?**

If a person is confirmed positive (positive PCR test result for COVID-19), any one of the below decisions will be carried out, or a combination of them:

- Activate Isolation Protocol for the student or staff who is confirmed positive and only send their family members and siblings into quarantine
- Activate the Isolation Protocol for the positive case and send their classmates or close people into quarantine
- Activate the Isolation Protocol for the positive case and send the bubble into quarantine
- Activate the Isolation Protocol for the positive case and send the whole class into quarantine
- Activate the Isolation Protocol for the positive case and send the section into quarantine



➤ **Why are there variations in quarantine protocols?**

Since the directives from the authorities are several and depend on the circumstances of each case, they are summarized for you in the following pages. The outcome is determined following an investigation by the Health & Safety Committee and is verified by the health authorities and the KHDA. Sometimes, a combination of different outcomes maybe carried out, depending on the guidelines and the instructions from the authorities.

➤ ***Will all parents or the entire school community be informed about positive cases in the school?***

The directives from the authorities (the KHDA and the health authorities) were very clear in that only close contacts are to be informed and provided instructions. The parents of the class/set will also be brought up to date to make them aware in case they do identify any contact with the positive case, and to inform them that the school has taken the necessary steps to protect the community.

We were strictly instructed to not communicate with the wider community as to:

- Protect the anonymity of the positive case
- Not spread alarm or anxiety amidst students, parents, and staff

The Health & Safety Committee makes its decisions after a thorough investigation into the positive case and after consulting with the authorities (KHDA, DHA, DHCC).

➤ ***How do I notify the school and report confirmed cases of COVID-19 or close contacts?***

- Email: [health@sisd.ae](mailto:health@sisd.ae) along with the department's secretary
- Mobile number: 054 – 722 0810 (Health & Safety Officer)

Reminder:

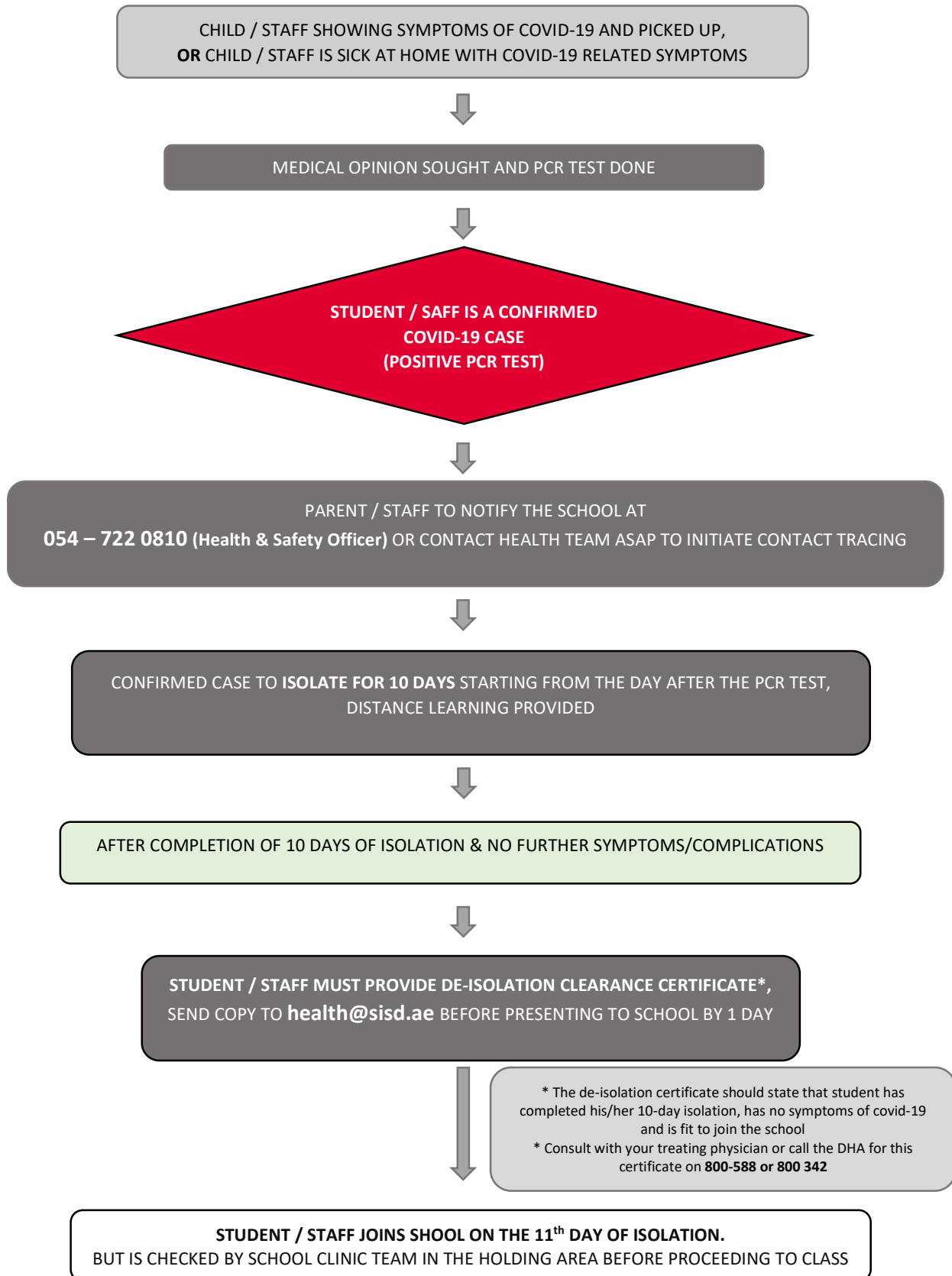
➤ **IF A STUDENT/ STAFF DEVELOPS COVID-19 RELATED SYMPTOMS, THEN THEY WILL HAVE TO:**

- Stay home and not attend school
- Email the class teacher/grade coordinator, the secretary to the section, as well as [health@sisd.ae](mailto:health@sisd.ae)
- Seek medical attention urgently, or call DHA at 800 342
- Do a PCR test for COVID-19
- Obtain a medical clearance certificate from their treating physician and make sure child is feeling better and is not showing any symptoms of COVID-19
- Share both the PCR test result and the medical clearance certificate with School Clinic Team
- Child to be symptom-free for 24 hours before returning to the school, and notify the Clinic Team
- Understand that the Clinic Team will check the child before resuming school

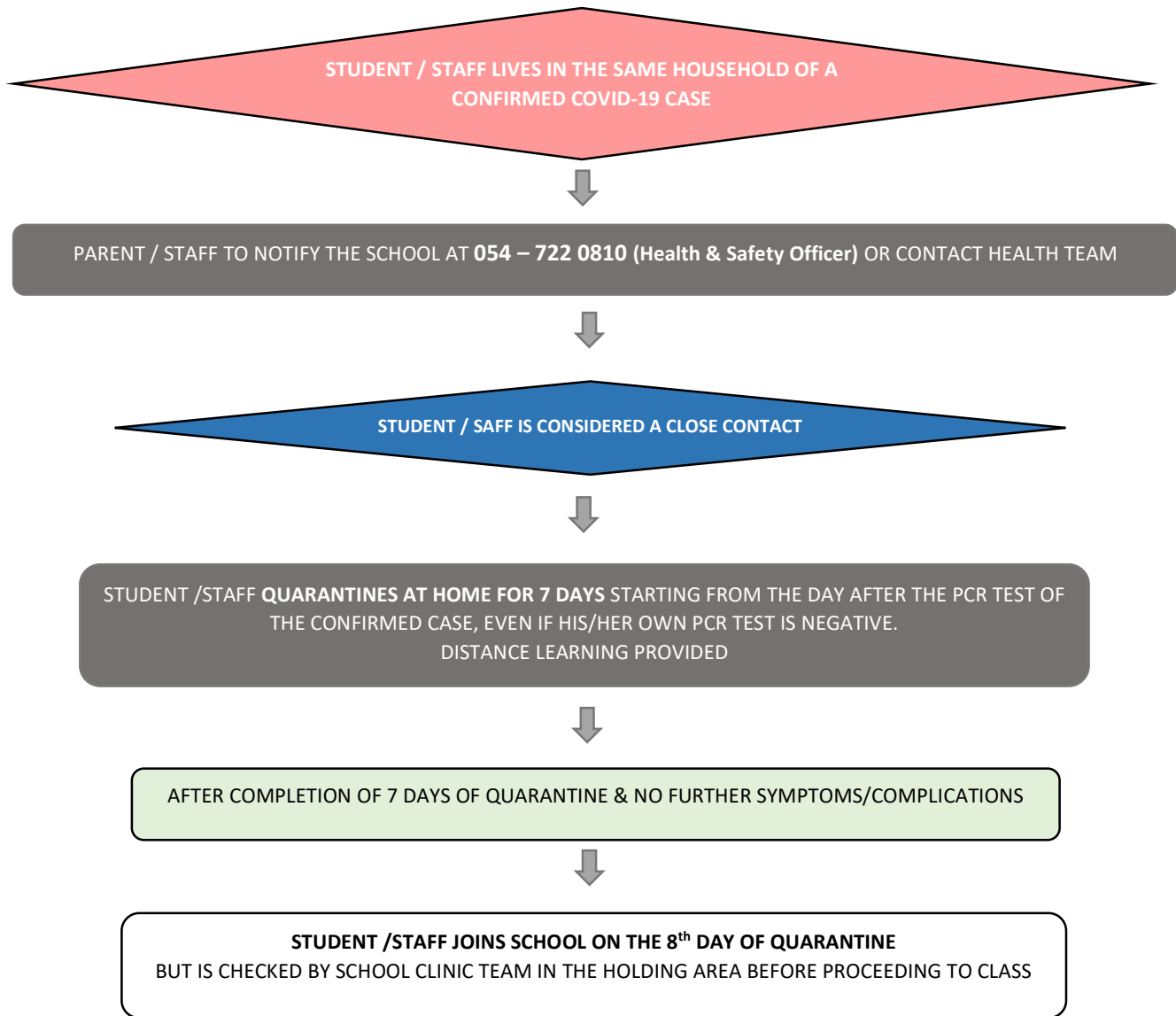
## COVID-19 Procedures:

The following flowcharts summarize the authorities' protocols in case a student or staff becomes a confirmed COVID-19 case or is a close contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case.

## Scenario 1: Student / Staff is COVID-19 Positive:



**Scenario 2: Student / Staff lives in the same household as a Confirmed COVID-19 Case:**

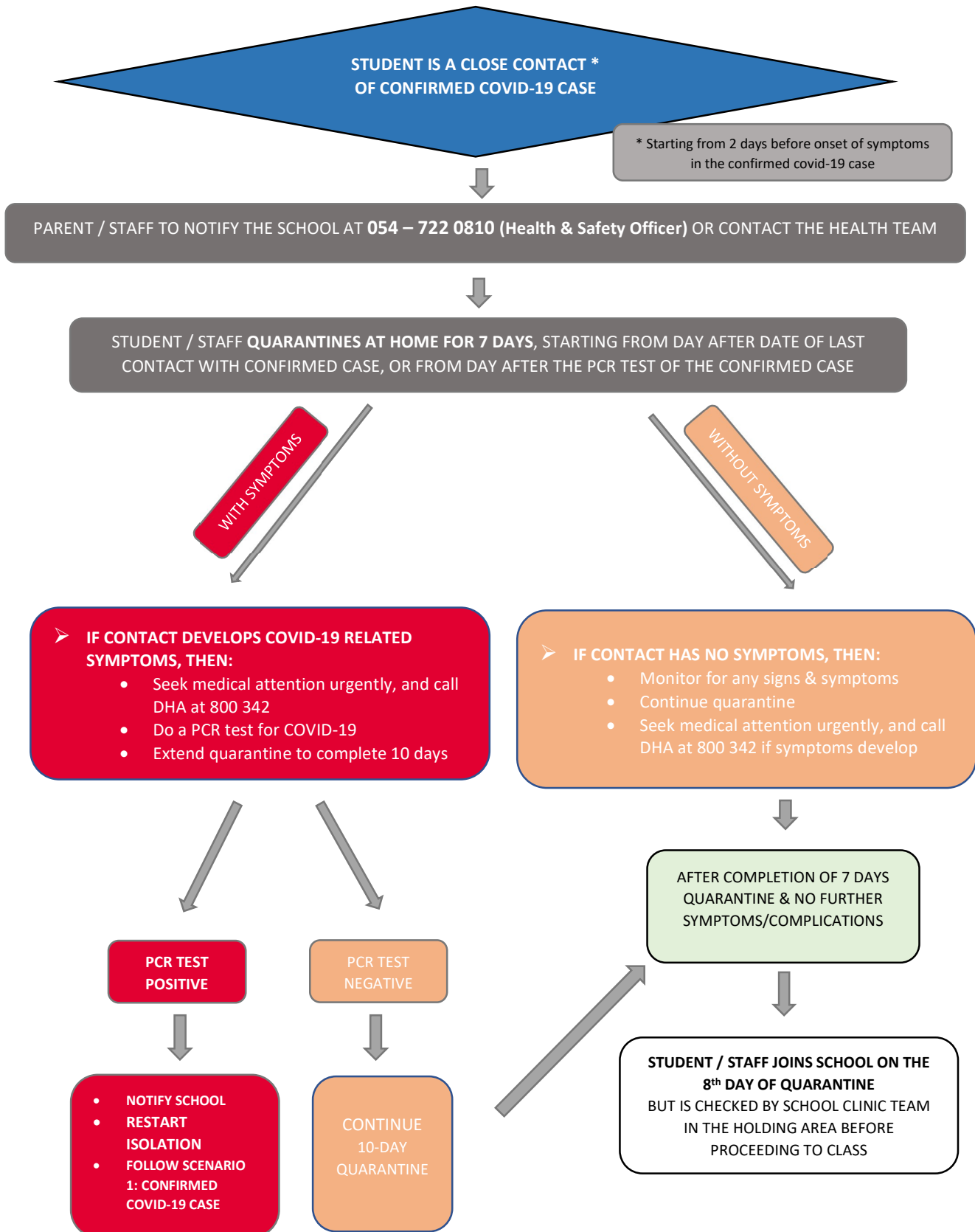


➤ **IF STUDENT / STAFF DEVELOPS COVID-19 RELATED SYMPTOMS DURING QUARANTINE, THEN HE/SHE WILL HAVE TO:**

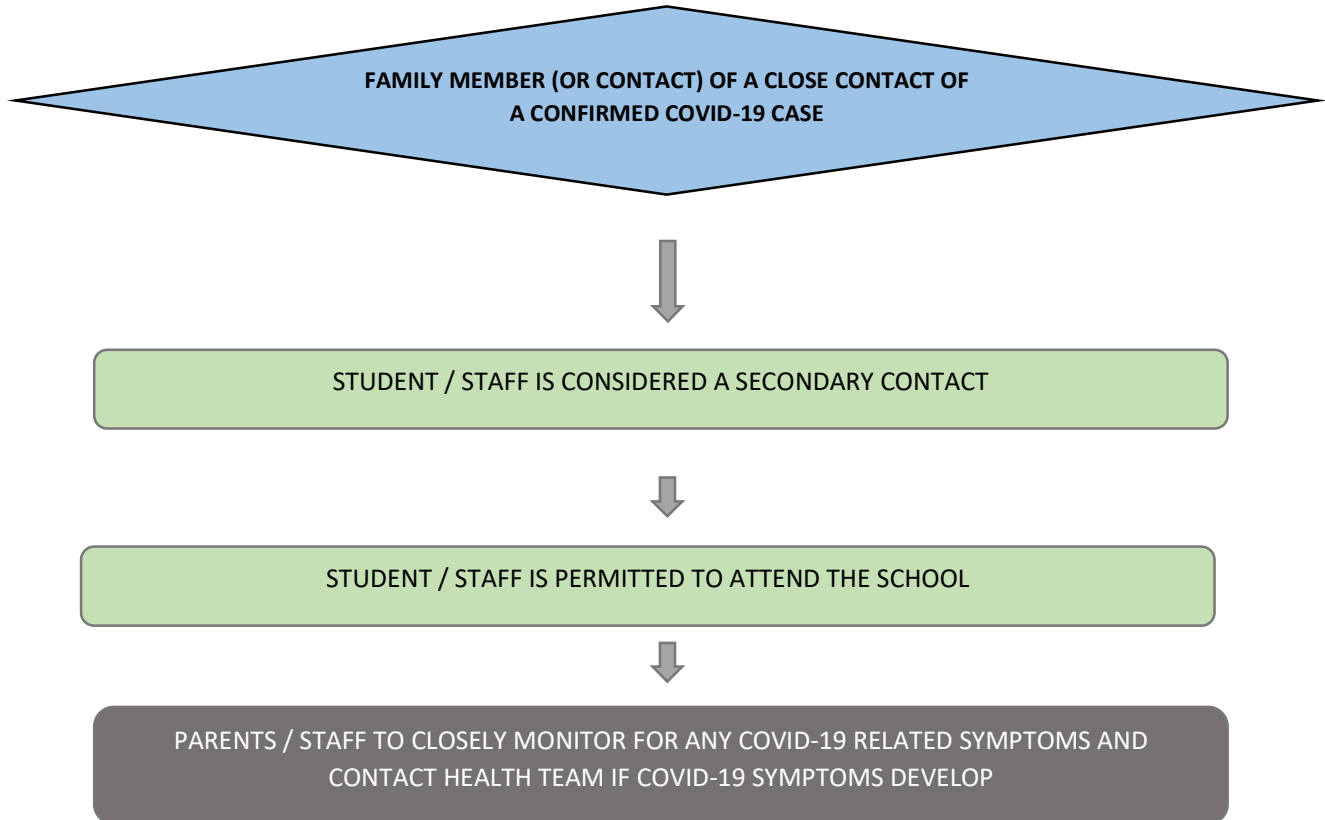
- Seek medical attention urgently, and call DHA at 800 342
- Do a PCR test for COVID-19
- Obtain a medical clearance certificate from their treating physician and make sure child is feeling better and is not showing any symptoms of COVID-19
- Share both the PCR test result and the medical clearance certificate with School Clinic Team
- Child to be symptom-free for 24 hours before returning to the school, and notify the Clinic Team
- Understand that the Clinic Team will check the child before resuming school
- Extend the quarantine to complete 10 days, and return by the 11<sup>th</sup> day if PCR test is negative



## Scenario 3: Student / Staff is in Close Contact with a Confirmed COVID-19 Case:



## Scenario 4: Family member / Secondary Contact of Close Contact of a Confirmed COVID-19 Case:



### Important links:

- SISD Back to School COVID-19 guidelines:
  - <https://sisd.ae/sisd-event/back-to-school-2021/>
- DHA general COVID-19 awareness:
  - <https://www.dha.gov.ae/en/Covid19/Pages/GeneralAwareness.aspx>
- DHA COVID-19 guidelines on raising awareness in children:
  - <https://www.dha.gov.ae/en/Covid19/Pages/children.aspx>
- DHA Parent's guide booklet on COVID-19:
  - [https://www.dha.gov.ae/Asset%20Library/COVID19/Students\\_COVID-19\\_Nov\\_EN.pdf](https://www.dha.gov.ae/Asset%20Library/COVID19/Students_COVID-19_Nov_EN.pdf)
- DHA guidelines for **confirmed COVID-19 cases and isolation**:
  - [http://www.dha.gov.ae/Asset%20Library/COVID19/Isolation%20Guideline%20for%20Confirmed%20COVID-19%20Cases\\_EN.pdf](http://www.dha.gov.ae/Asset%20Library/COVID19/Isolation%20Guideline%20for%20Confirmed%20COVID-19%20Cases_EN.pdf)
- DHA guidelines for **close contacts and quarantine**:
  - [https://www.dha.gov.ae/Asset%20Library/COVID19/Close%20Contact\\_EN.pdf](https://www.dha.gov.ae/Asset%20Library/COVID19/Close%20Contact_EN.pdf)
  - <https://www.dha.gov.ae/en/Covid19/Documents/Bilingual%20Home%20Quarantine%20Guide.pdf>
- KHDA – COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions:
  - <https://www.khda.gov.ae/en/safetyatschools>