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. KHDA's and DHA's COVID-19 guidelines are summarized for you in the vital document. Please keep an eye out for the updated protocol on the school's website.

What is the protocol if sick:

- **If a student has had symptoms related to COVID-19 or flu-like symptoms, parents must keep the child home, provide a negative PCR test, and can only send the child to school if the negative PCR test has been shared with the Healthcare team, and the child is completely symptom-free for at least 24 hours without the use of medications. The child must be cleared by the Healthcare team before resuming class. Please refer to the flu-like symptoms on page 3.**

- If a student is unwell with symptoms other than flu-like symptoms, 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. If the child's absence or symptoms exceed 48 hours, a clearance from the doctor will be needed for his/her return. This is essential to prevent the spread of communicable diseases, while also allowing the child to recover fully. Please refer to our Attendance Policy and our Infection Control Policy.

- Keep your child home and please fill the SISD Absences Form, or email us at health@sisd.ae or clinic@sisd.ae while copying your child's class teacher (PRE-KG to Grade 5) / grade coordinator (Grade 6 and above) and your child's section secretary

- For queries regarding COVID-19,
    - Email: **health@sisd.ae**
- For all other medical queries **not** related to COVID-19,
    - Email: **clinic@sisd.ae**

- Staff must follow the SISD COVID-19 and Sick Leave policies provided by the HR, as well guidelines sent by the Healthcare team. If unwell with flu-like symptoms, staff members must inform the Healthcare team via email (health@sisd.ae), whilst copying their line managers, the department's secretary and sickleave@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.

- **To conclude: If a student has had symptoms related to COVID-19 (flu-like symptoms), parents must provide a negative PCR test, as well as a medical clearance certificate for their child (if the child is absent for over 2 days) from their DHA 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 their child home in case the child is 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

➢ ***What are the new updates to the COVID-19 protocol – September 2022?***

- **Face masks are no longer required indoors or outdoors.**
    - Face masks are no longer mandatory for all students, staff, and visitors to private schools in Dubai.
    - They remain compulsory for those confirmed to have COVID-19 or suspected and/or symptomatic with flu-like symptoms.
    - Masks are recommended to be worn by those with chronic diseases in both open and closed areas.

- If a student/staff suffers from any COVID-19/flu-like symptoms, he/she must remain at home and undergo an official PCR test.
    - **Antigen / Home tests are not accepted.**
    - **A negative PCR test is mandatory for return to school and child/staff must also be completely symptom-free before return.**
    - Keep your child home and please fill the SISD Absences Form, or email us at health@sisd.ae while copying your child's class teacher (PRE-KG to Grade 5) / grade coordinator (Grade 6 and above) and your child's section secretary.

- **Isolation for positive cases have been reduced to 5 days instead of 10 days.**
    - Positive cases must isolate at home for 5 days from the day of the sample collection.
    - Return to school is on the 6th day.

- No quarantine for close contacts if they are symptom-free:
    - **Close contacts do not need to quarantine as long as they are completely symptom-free.** They can physically join the school as usual.
    - **Close contacts who develop flu-like symptoms must remain at home and undergo PCR testing.** They can only resume once their symptoms have resolved, and they have presented a negative PCR test.
    - If a close contact has a negative PCR test but is still unwell/symptomatic, they should stay at home until their symptoms are completely cleared.
    - Close contacts must be monitored closely for any flu-like symptoms for 7 days.

- Contact tracing process will continue.
    - Parents and guardians will receive official communication from the school if their children were identified as close contacts to a case in the school.
    - Parents must monitor their children for 7 days following the last exposure with the positive case.

- Regular and consistent sanitization of the school premises will continue in compliance with the authorities' regulations.

➢ *Who is a COVID-19 Suspected Case?*

A Suspected Case is a person who presents with:

- **Upper or Lower respiratory symptoms, like:**
  - fever of ≥ 37.5
  - cough
  - sneezing
  - runny nose
  - nasal congestion
  - headache
  - sore throat
  - loss of taste or smell
  - shortness of breath / difficulty in breathing
  - body aches
  - muscle pain
  - diarrhea
  - nausea and/or vomiting

- **With the following conditions:**
  - Cases of flu or influenza-like illness, even without history of travel or known possible exposure
  - 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

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 Healthcare Team.
Please be reminded that a person exhibiting 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.

If a student develops covid-19 related symptoms, follow the protocol for a suspected /symptomatic case:

➢ **Protocol for a Suspected Case (Student)**

Please know that as per the authorities' guidelines, the protocol to return to school includes the following:

1. **Take your child for PCR testing for COVID-19. Keep your child home until the result is out and shared with the School Healthcare Team (health@sisd.ae) and the section secretary. Your child's siblings can attend school normally, provided they are symptom-free and not in contact with the sick student.**
2. **If the PCR test is positive, isolate your child at home for 5 days, and follow the COVID-19 isolation guidelines. The School Healthcare Team will report the result to the DHA and send you the guidelines for isolation.**
3. **If the PCR test is negative, your child can resume school provided he/she has completely recovered from the flu-like symptoms.**
4. **If your child is absent for over 2 days, a sickleave / medical clearance certificate is mandated to allow your child back in school, as per the Attendance policy. The doctor must provide you with a sickleave / medical certificate clearance on the hospital/clinic/medical center's letterhead, signed, and dated, and stating that your child is free from COVID-19 symptoms and fit to join school.**
5. **Upon your child's return to school, the School Healthcare team will check and clear your child before joining the classroom.**

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

A confirmed COVID-19 case is 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 in the UAE within the past 90 days prior to the exposure, however this is subject to the authorities' discretion.

➢ *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. Isolation is for 5 days, and the confirmed case can return on the 6th day.

- **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 your child is symptomatic and 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 Healthcare team at **health@sisd.ae as well as the secretary to the section,** informing us that you are keeping your child at home because you are waiting for the result of the PCR test for COVID-19 for him/her.
- Your child can rejoin school once you receive the negative result and have shared it with the Healthcare Team (health@sisd.ae) and he/she is completely symptom-free.

➢ ***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?***

As per the updates shared by the authorities:

- Asymptomatic close contacts can resume school normally, provided they are closely monitored by parents for symptoms.
- Symptomatic close contacts, who have flu-like symptoms, should remain home, and undergo PCR testing.
    - If the test is positive, the child will be regarded as a confirmed case, and should isolate for 5 days.
    - If the test is negative but the child remains symptomatic, the child must remain home until he/she completely recovers.
- **A PCR test is mandated every time a child is unwell with flu-like symptoms**

➢ ***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 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 Team makes its decisions after a thorough investigation into the positive case and after consulting with the authorities (KHDA and DHA).

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

You will have to abide by the requirements for the airlines and for entering UAE.
Currently, 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.

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

- Email: health@sisd.ae along with the department's secretary

➢ ***Reminder, if a student/ staff develops covid-19 related symptoms, follow the protocol for a suspected or symptomatic case:***

➢ **Protocol for a Suspected Case (Student)**

Please know that as per the authorities' guidelines, the protocol to return to school includes the following:

1. **Take your child for PCR testing for COVID-19. Keep your child home until the result is out and shared with the School Healthcare Team (health@sisd.ae) and the section secretary. Your child's siblings can attend school normally, provided they are symptom-free and not in contact with the sick student.**
2. **If the PCR test is positive, isolate your child at home for 5 days, and follow the COVID-19 isolation guidelines. The School Healthcare Team will report the result to the DHA and send you the guidelines for isolation.**
3. **If the PCR test is negative, your child can resume school provided he/she has completely recovered from the flu-like symptoms.**
4. **If your child is absent for over 2 days, a sickleave / medical clearance certificate is mandated to allow your child back in school, as per the Attendance policy. The doctor must provide you with a sickleave / medical certificate clearance on the hospital/clinic/medical center's letterhead, signed, and dated, and stating that your child is free from COVID-19 symptoms and fit to join school.**
5. **Upon your child's return to school, the School Healthcare team will check and clear your child before joining the classroom.**

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:

CHILD / STAFF SHOWING SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 AND PICKED UP,
OR CHILD / STAFF IS SICK AT HOME WITH COVID-19 RELATED SYMPTOMS

↓

PCR TEST DONE AND MEDICAL OPINION SOUGHT

↓

STUDENT / SAFF IS A CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASE (POSITIVE PCR TEST)

↓

PARENT / STAFF TO NOTIFY THE SCHOOL BY CONTACTING HEALTH TEAM ASAP TO INITIATE CONTACT TRACING
health@sisd.ae

↓

CONFIRMED CASE TO **ISOLATE FOR 5 DAYS** STARTING FROM THE DAY OF SAMPLE COLLECTION, DISTANCE LEARNING PROVIDED

↓

AFTER COMPLETION OF 5 DAYS OF ISOLATION & NO FURTHER SYMPTOMS/COMPLICATIONS

↓

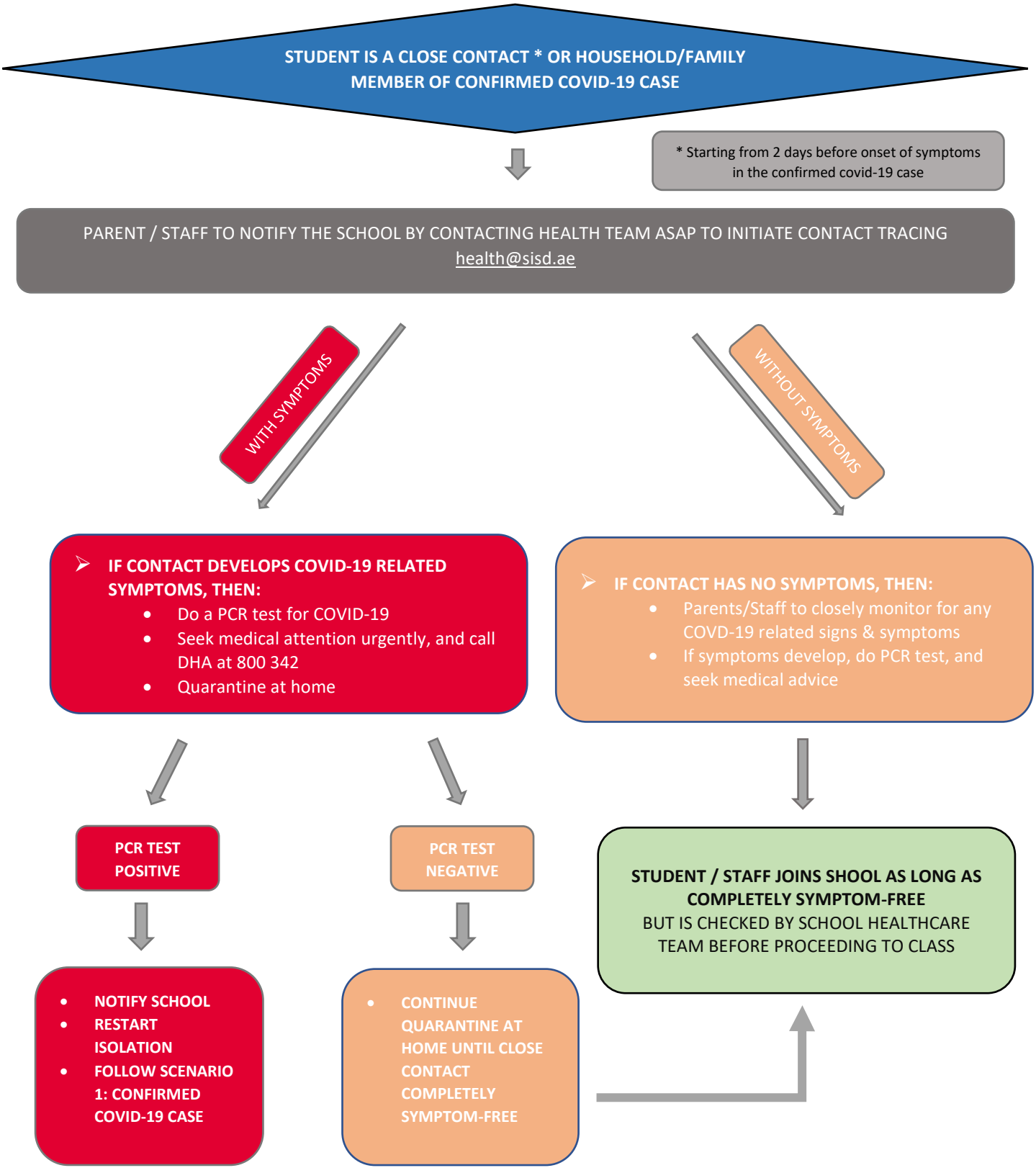
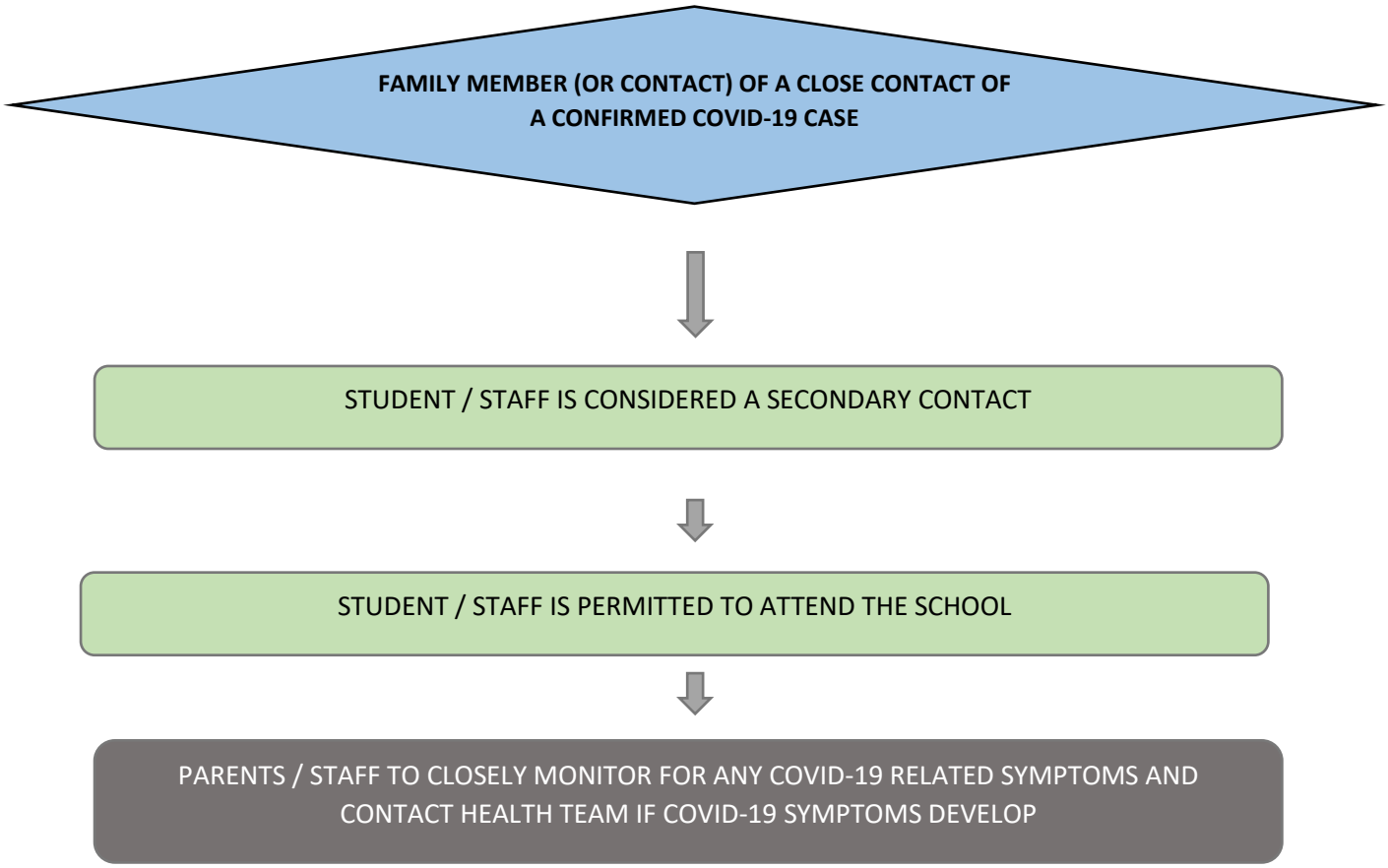
STUDENT / STAFF MUST PROVIDE DE-ISOLATION CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE*,
SEND COPY TO **health@sisd.ae** BEFORE PRESENTING TO SCHOOL BY 1 DAY

↓

* Call the DHA for the Isolation Completion or De-Isolation certificate on **800 342**

STUDENT / STAFF JOINS SHOOL ON THE 6th DAY OF ISOLATION.
BUT IS CHECKED BY SCHOOL HEALTHCARE TEAM BEFORE PROCEEDING TO CLASS

Scenario 2: Student / Staff is in Close Contact with a Confirmed COVID-19 Case:



Scenario 3: Family member / Secondary Contact of Close Contact of a Confirmed COVID-19 Case: