

Flowchart guidance for care staff and residents following SARS-CoV-2 testing

(for care homes and domiciliary care)

Version 1.2

Last updated on 28/06/2020



Updates (all updates highlighted)

- 3rd June:
 - updated resource so applies to both care home and domiciliary care settings
 - included further information about repeat tests
 - included isolation information for residents who have been in contact with confirmed cases
 - Note staff flowcharts do not apply to staff who are close contacts of confirmed cases (staff who have worn appropriate PPE when caring for a positive case, are not classed as close contacts)
- 28th June:
 - Added slide re national guidance and regarding importance of reporting single cases or outbreaks (2 or more symptomatic individuals) to PHE
 - Changed isolation periods to 14 days
 - Further additions to staff FAQs
 - Further detail added to reflect new Test and Trace Programme and advice for household contacts.

National Guidance

- Please follow national care home and home care guidance, noting this guidance refers to interpretation of test results in the main
- Any single possible or confirmed case (in staff or residents) in a care home setting should be notified to PHE on 0344 225 3560 Option 0 Option 2 (see guidance below for symptom definitions – broader definitions now used in care home settings than for other people in the community)
- Medical advice should be sought as usual for any resident

Admission and care of people in care homes

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-admission-and-care-of-people-in-care-homes>

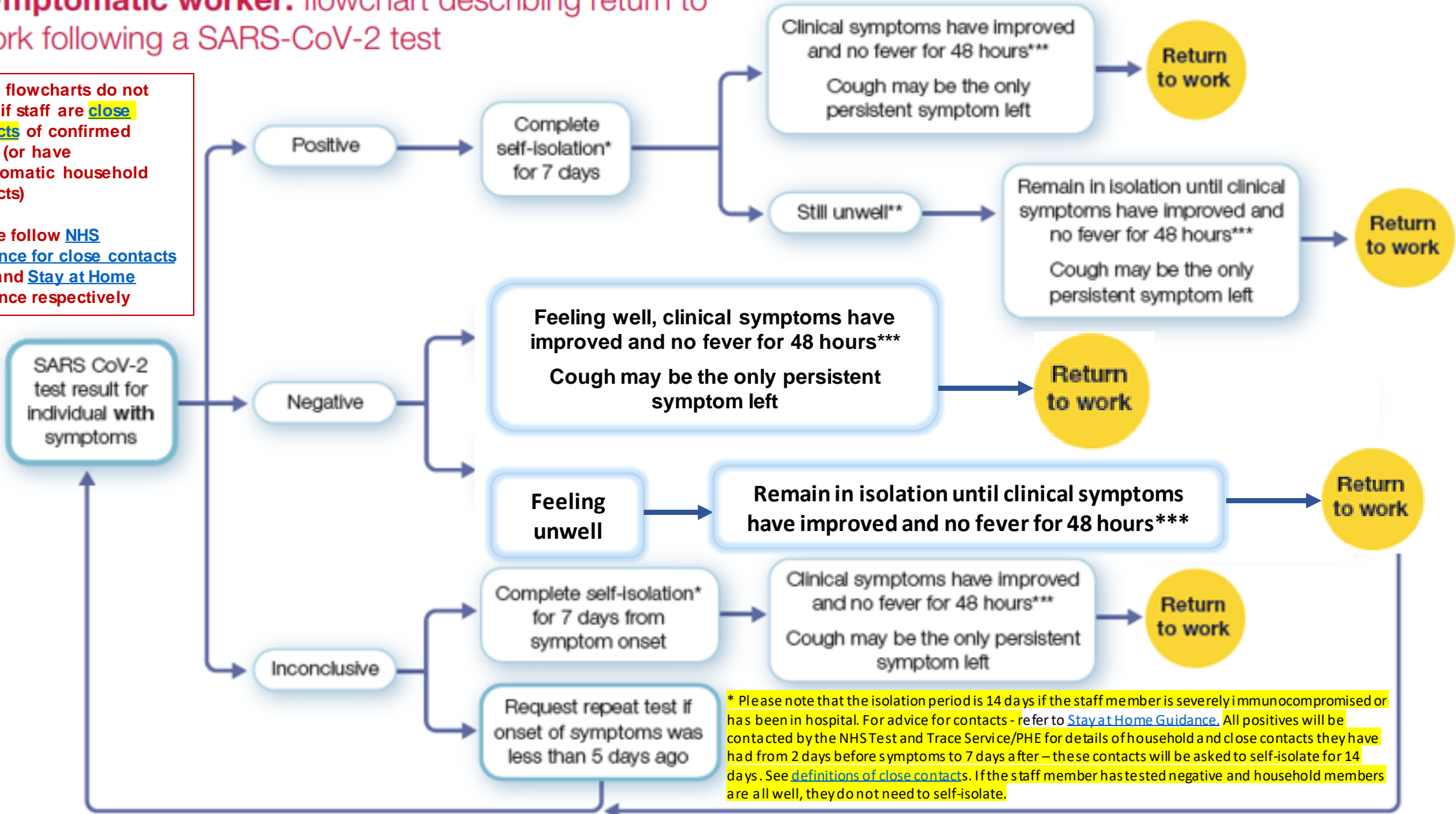
Providing home care

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-admission-and-care-of-people-in-care-homes>

Symptomatic worker: flowchart describing return to work following a SARS-CoV-2 test

These flowcharts do not apply if staff are **close contacts** of confirmed cases (or have symptomatic household contacts)

Please follow [NHS guidance for close contacts here](#) and [Stay at Home guidance](#) respectively



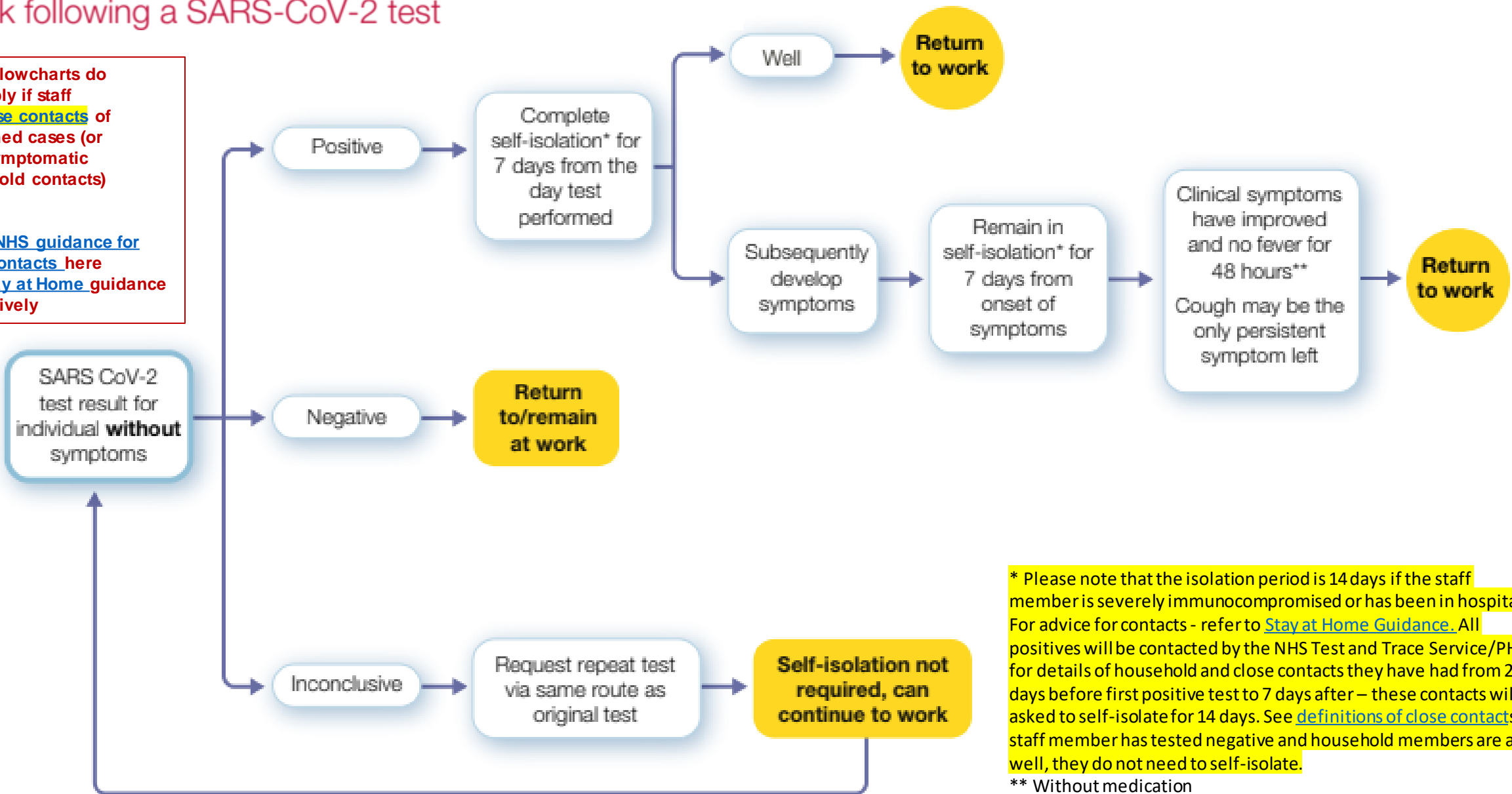
* Please note that the isolation period is 14 days if the staff member is severely immunocompromised or has been in hospital. For advice for contacts - refer to [Stay at Home Guidance](#). All positives will be contacted by the NHS Test and Trace Service/PHE for details of household and close contacts they have had from 2 days before symptoms to 7 days after – these contacts will be asked to self-isolate for 14 days. See [definitions of close contacts](#). If the staff member has tested negative and household members are all well, they do not need to self-isolate.

** Consider contacting the [NHS online coronavirus service](#) or in a medical emergency dial 999
 *** Without medication

Asymptomatic worker: flowchart describing return to work following a SARS-CoV-2 test

These flowcharts do not apply if staff are **close contacts** of confirmed cases (or have symptomatic household contacts)

Please follow [NHS guidance for close contacts here](#) and [Stay at Home guidance](#) respectively



* Please note that the isolation period is 14 days if the staff member is severely immunocompromised or has been in hospital. For advice for contacts - refer to [Stay at Home Guidance](#). All positives will be contacted by the NHS Test and Trace Service/PHE for details of household and close contacts they have had from 2 days before first positive test to 7 days after – these contacts will be asked to self-isolate for 14 days. See [definitions of close contacts](#). If staff member has tested negative and household members are all well, they do not need to self-isolate.

** Without medication

FAQs regarding care home staff return to work

Staff members

Can a staff member return to work if they test positive, isolate, return to work and then test positive again (within short time period)?

As long as they are asymptomatic, and they have not had a fever for 48 hours, then if 7 days from the onset of symptoms have passed they can return to work. **If not, then they need to continue to isolate.**

However, if they develop symptoms again at a later date, they should self-isolate and be tested again – as it is not known how long immunity lasts.

What should a staff member do if they have been symptom free and tested negative or inconclusive but subsequently develop symptoms of COVID-19?

They should self-isolate for 7 days from the onset of symptoms and should arrange for a repeat COVID-19 test.

If a staff member self-isolated with symptoms or because of a household contact with symptoms but was not tested, and they then return to work, but subsequently test positive, what should they do?

The staff member should isolate for 7 days from the date of the test if asymptomatic. They can return to work once clinical symptoms have improved and they have had no fever for 48 hours.

Household contacts

Do household contacts need to be tested if their isolation period has finished?

Household contacts do not need to be tested once the isolation period has been completed.

Flowchart guidance for residents

Please note, these flowcharts will apply to results when residents are being tested during an outbreak, as part of whole home testing or prior to discharge from hospital

Flowchart guidance for residents WITH symptoms

Isolation period :

- 14 days if severely immunocompromised, have been in hospital, are in a care home environment or have tested negative/inconclusive and are a contact of a confirmed case
- 7 days if above does not apply

- If possible, staff should only work with either symptomatic or asymptomatic residents. Where possible, staff who have had confirmed COVID-19 and recovered should care for COVID-19 patients.
- If, at a later date, a resident develops symptoms of COVID again (having previously isolated for COVID-19 reasons), follow the flowchart below to determine actions.
- If residents test positive for a second time soon after completing isolation, and are well and have not had a fever for 48 hours, they do not need to isolate again.



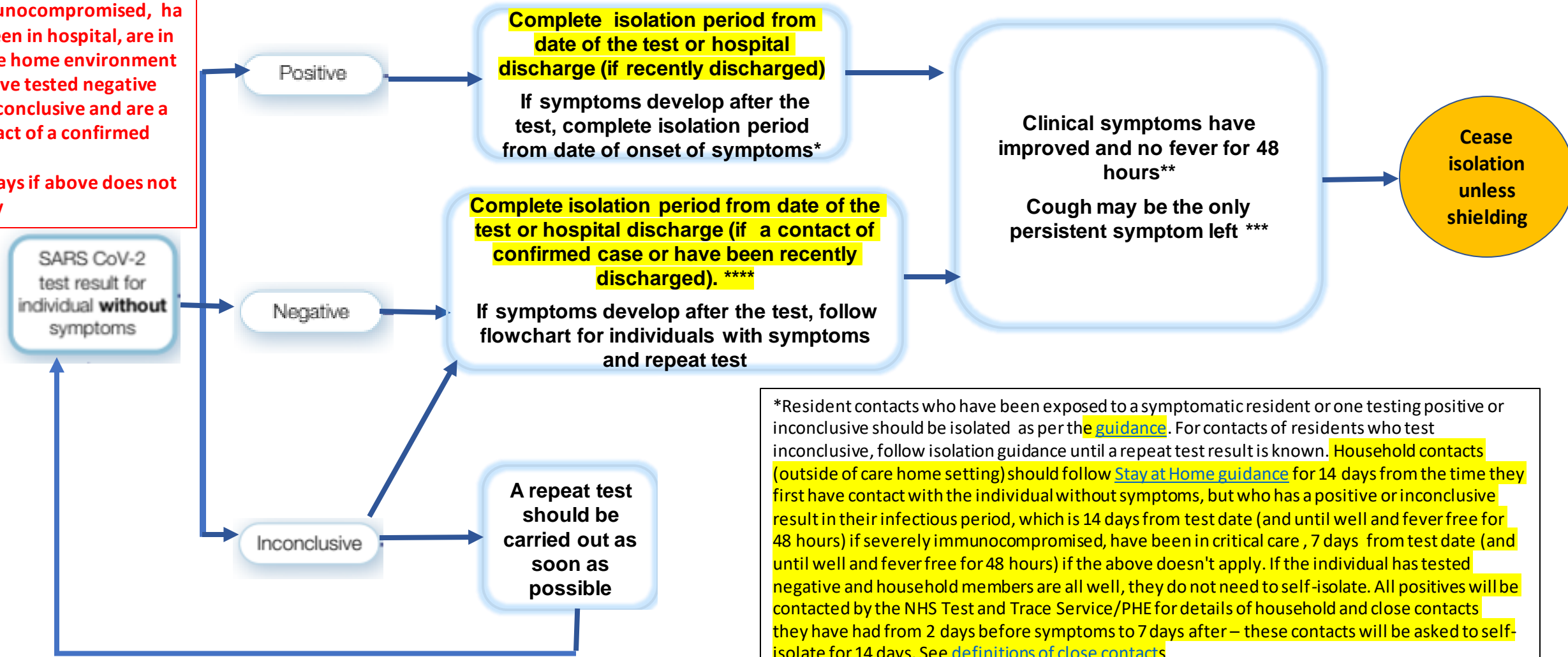
*Resident contacts who have been exposed to a symptomatic resident or one testing positive or inconclusive should be isolated as per the [guidance](#). For contacts of residents who test inconclusive, follow isolation guidance until a repeat test result is known. Household contacts (outside of care home setting) should follow [Stay at Home guidance](#) for 14 days from the time they first have contact with the individual with symptoms in their infectious period, which is 14 days (and until well and fever free for 48 hours) if severely immunocompromised, have been in critical care, 7 days (and until well and fever free for 48 hours) if the above doesn't apply. If the individual has tested negative and household members are all well, they do not need to self-isolate. All positives will be contacted by the NHS Test and Trace Service/PHE for details of household and close contacts they have had from 2 days before symptoms to 7 days after – these contacts will be asked to self-isolate for 14 days. See [definitions of close contacts](#) **without medication; ***A repeat COVID-19 test to confirm that the infection has cleared after the isolation period is NOT required.

Flowchart guidance for residents **WITHOUT** symptoms

- If possible, staff should only work with either symptomatic or asymptomatic residents. Where possible, staff who have had confirmed COVID-19 and recovered should care for COVID-19 patients.
- If, at a later date, a resident is tested again, but has no symptoms (having previously isolated as a for COVID-19 reasons), follow the flowchart below to determine actions.
- If residents test positive for a second time soon after completing isolation, and are well and have not had a fever for 48 hours, they do not need to isolate again.

Isolation period :

- 14 days if severely immunocompromised, have been in hospital, are in a care home environment or have tested negative or inconclusive and are a contact of a confirmed case
- 7 days if above does not apply



*Resident contacts who have been exposed to a symptomatic resident or one testing positive or inconclusive should be isolated as per the [guidance](#). For contacts of residents who test inconclusive, follow isolation guidance until a repeat test result is known. Household contacts (outside of care home setting) should follow [Stay at Home guidance](#) for 14 days from the time they first have contact with the individual without symptoms, but who has a positive or inconclusive result in their infectious period, which is 14 days from test date (and until well and fever free for 48 hours) if severely immunocompromised, have been in critical care , 7 days from test date (and until well and fever free for 48 hours) if the above doesn't apply. If the individual has tested negative and household members are all well, they do not need to self-isolate. All positives will be contacted by the NHS Test and Trace Service/PHE for details of household and close contacts they have had from 2 days before symptoms to 7 days after – these contacts will be asked to self-isolate for 14 days. See [definitions of close contacts](#)

without medication; *A repeat COVID-19 test to confirm that the infection has cleared after the isolation period is NOT required **** If not recently discharged and not a contact of a confirmed case, no isolation not required