

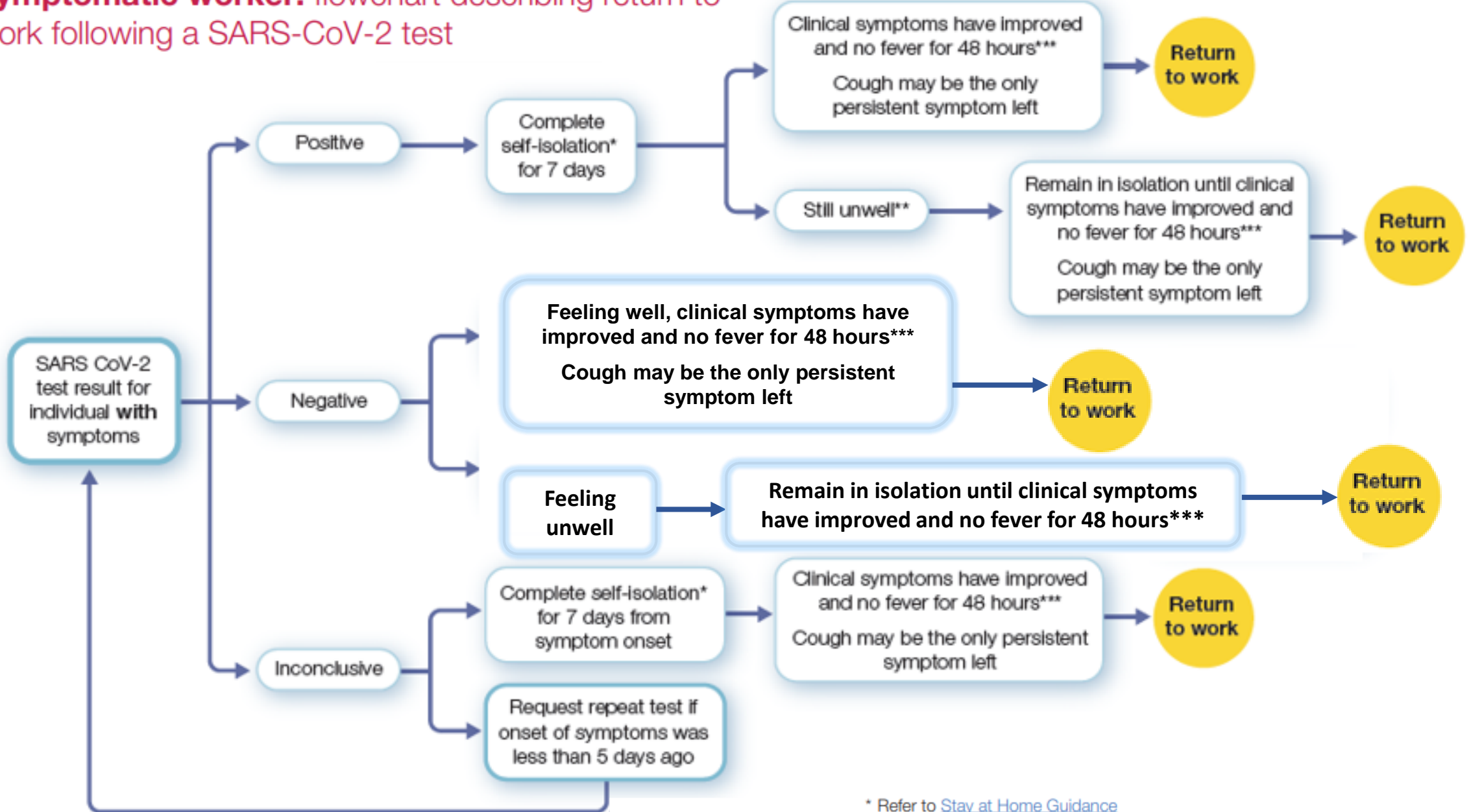
Flowchart guidance for care home staff and residents following SARS-CoV-2 testing

Version 1

Last updated on 22/05/2020



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

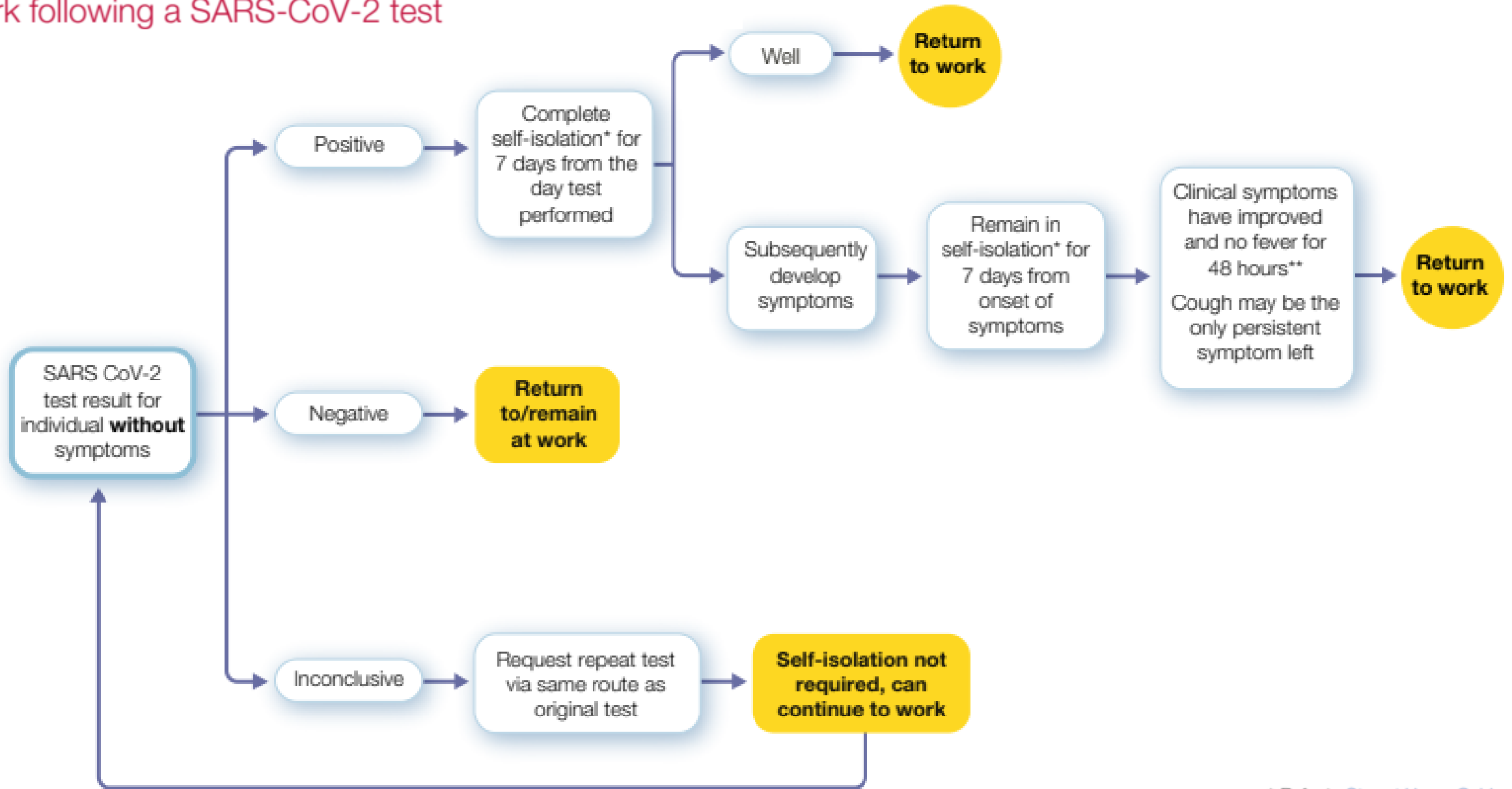


* Refer to [Stay at Home Guidance](#)

** 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



* Refer to [Stay at Home Guidance](#)
** 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 isolate again. However if they develop symptoms again/test positive again at a later date, they should isolate 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.

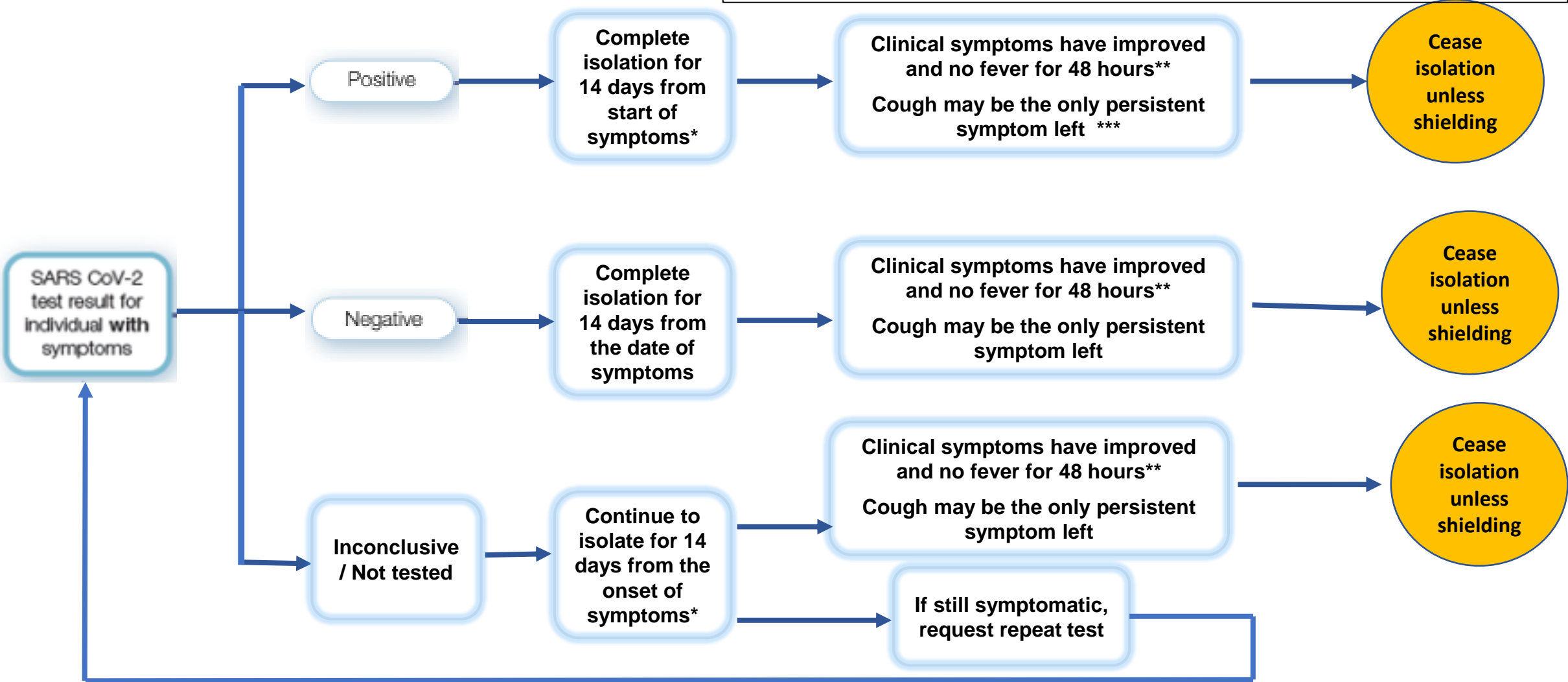
Household contacts

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 care home residents **WITH** symptoms

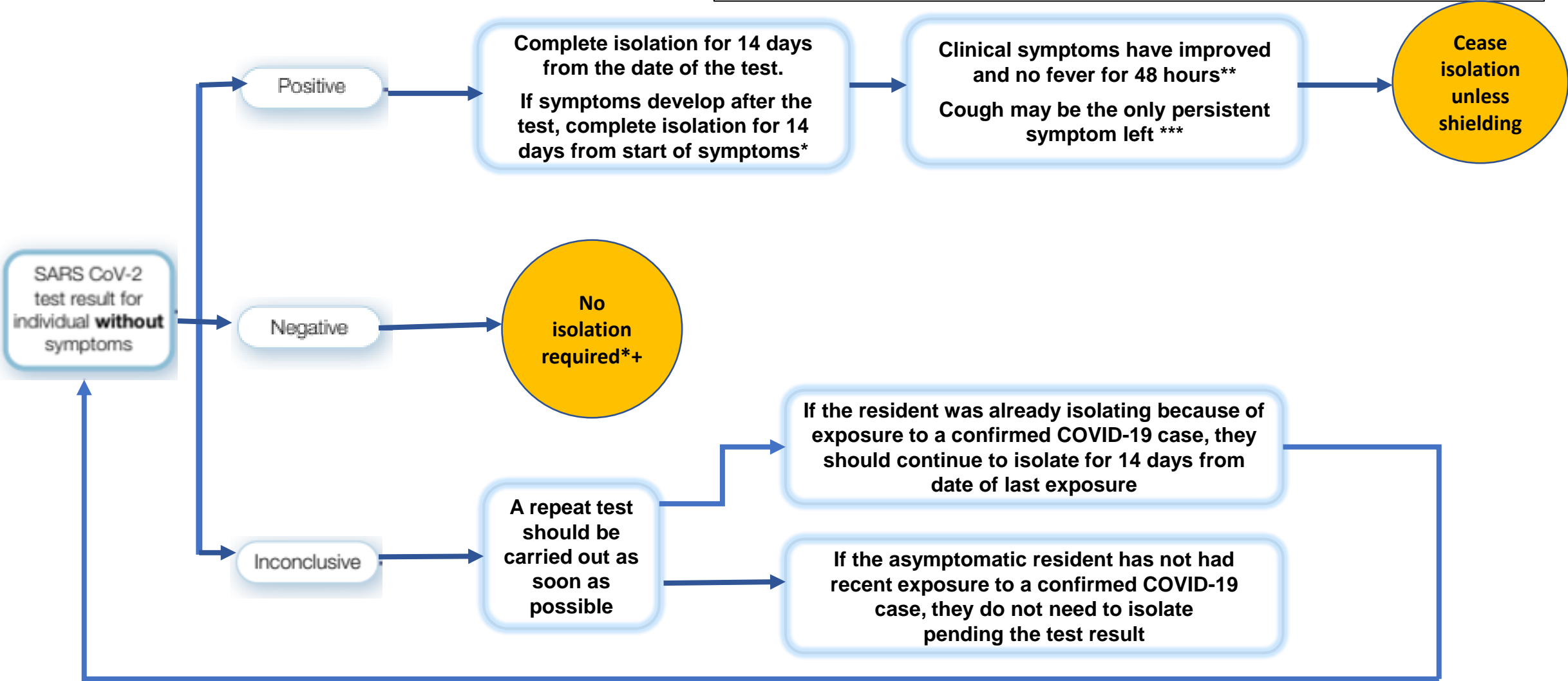
- If possible, staff should only work with either symptomatic or asymptomatic residents. Where possible, staff who have had confirmed COVID-19 and recovered should care for COVID-19 patients.
 - If a resident subsequently tests positive with or without symptoms (having previously isolated for COVID-19), follow relevant flowchart to determine actions



*Resident contacts who have been exposed to a resident 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.
 **without medication; **A repeat COVID-19 test to confirm that the infection has cleared after the 14-day period is NOT required

Flowchart guidance for care home 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 a resident subsequently tests positive with or without symptoms (having previously isolated for COVID-19), follow relevant flowchart to determine actions



*Resident contacts who have been exposed to a resident testing positive should be isolated as per the [guidance](#); ** without medication; ***A repeat COVID-19 test to confirm that the infection has cleared after the 14-day period is NOT required; *+If the resident subsequently develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should be isolated for 14 days from the onset of symptoms, and a REPEAT COVID-19 test should be carried out as soon as possible.