COVID-19 Contact Tracing in Schools

Louisiana Department of Health

Office of Public Health

Importance of Contact Tracing

- It is critical to conduct **immediate** contact tracing and identify all students and staff members who have been in close contact with the infected individual

- Contact tracing should be done individually *for each person* identified with COVID-19 in the school

- Contact tracing slows the spread of COVID-19 by identifying people that **may have been exposed**, asking them to **monitor their health**, and asking them to **self-quarantine**

- Timely and thorough contact tracing can effectively interrupt the chain of disease transmission

- Contact tracing is an important public health intervention to prevent or contain an outbreak

By keeping those that may have been exposed to COVID-19 away from others, further transmission may be prevented

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Contact Tracing in Schools

1 Steps to identify COVID-19 infections and report to LDH

2 Steps to identify and notify close contacts

3 Steps to conduct cleaning and disinfection

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1 Identifying COVID-19 Infections in Schools

Type of Case	Considered a Case When...	
Lab-confirmed case	Positive COVID-19 viral test result (confirmed case)	**Includes:** molecular/PCR or antigen tests
Suspect case	Clinical diagnosis of COVID-19	
	OR has at least one of the major COVID symptoms listed to the right	cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, or new changes in sense of smell or taste **AND** no alternative diagnosis
	OR has at least two of the minor COVID symptoms listed to the right	fever (measured or subjective), chills, rigors, muscle ache/myalgia, headache, sore throat, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, congestion/runny nose or fatigue **AND** no alternative diagnosis

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When Someone Has Symptoms But Does Not Meet Clinical or Laboratory Criteria for COVID-19…

They should be sent home and NOT return to school until they are symptom-free for 24 hours

Note Contact tracing does not need to be done for these individuals

Once COVID-19 Cases Are Identified…

End of Self-Isolation Criteria	
For a person with ANY symptom(s):	For a person who remained asymptomatic (i.e., never had any symptoms):
At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared **AND**	
At least 24 hours have passed since the resolution of fever without the use of fever reducing medications **AND**	At least 10 days have passed since positive test collection date
Other symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved	

Isolate and send the person home immediately.

They should **NOT** return to school until the listed "end of self-isolation criteria" are met.

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Report the case to LDH

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), in consultation with the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE), has developed an early warning system for COVID-19 in Louisiana schools – the School COVID-19 Reporting Portal.

This case-based secure online reporting system was created to aid schools and public health officials in monitoring and mitigating the potential for school-based outbreaks.

Questions?

Contact: schoolcovidreporting@la.gov

Regional OPH Offices – for consultation and recommendations upon request

2 Steps to Identify & Notify **Close Contacts** of Suspected or Lab-Confirmed COVID-19 Infections

Determine who has been in close contact with the person with COVID-19 infection in school during their infectious period

➔

Notify close contacts

➔

Ensure close contacts remain out of school until the end of their quarantine period

➔

Consider notifying the entire school community that a person with COVID-19 infection has been identified

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Identify Close Contacts

| Determine who has been in close contact with the person with COVID-19 infection in school during their infectious period | → | Notify close contacts | → | Ensure close contacts remain out of school until the end of their quarantine period | → | Consider notifying the entire school community that there was a person with COVID-19 infection identified |
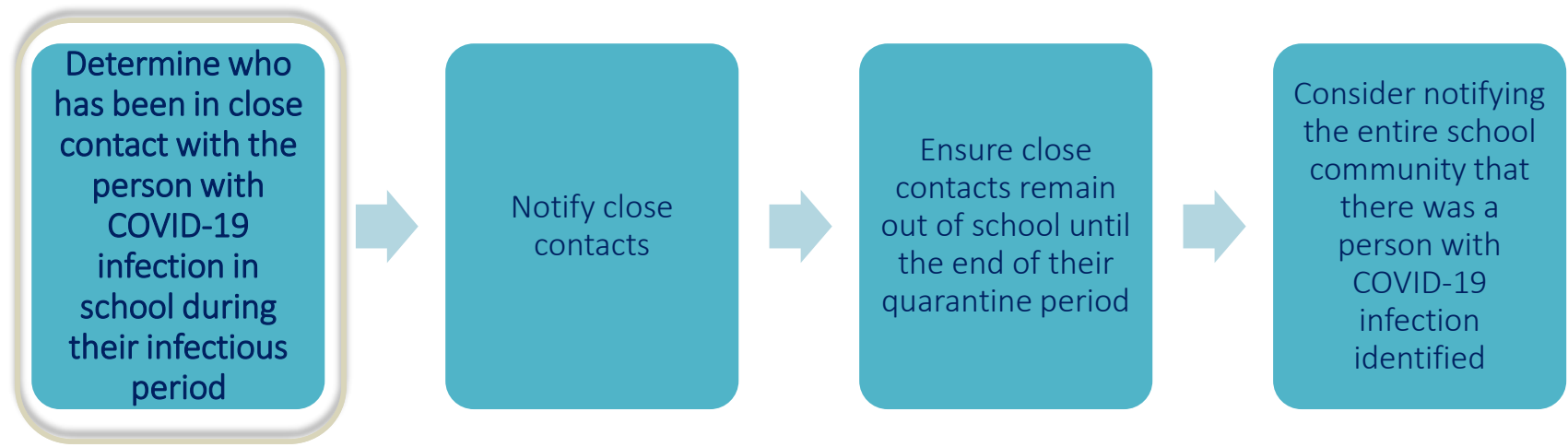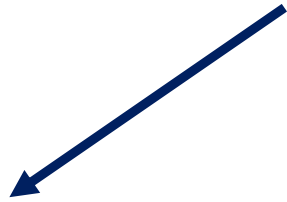
- Close contact is defined as:
  - Being within *6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes* OR
  - Having direct contact with an infected person, including touching, hugging, kissing, or sharing eating or drinking utensils; or if an infected person sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on another person

- The Infectious period includes the **48 hours before** the day the person became sick (or the 48 hours before specimen collection if asymptomatic) until the person was isolated

- Use of face coverings and plastic dividers are **NOT** considered in determining close contacts, though they do *reduce the risk of transmission.*

- Identify close contacts that may have occurred during any time or place the person was at school during the infectious period, including in the classrooms, on school buses, during recess or lunch, and during extra-curricular activities.
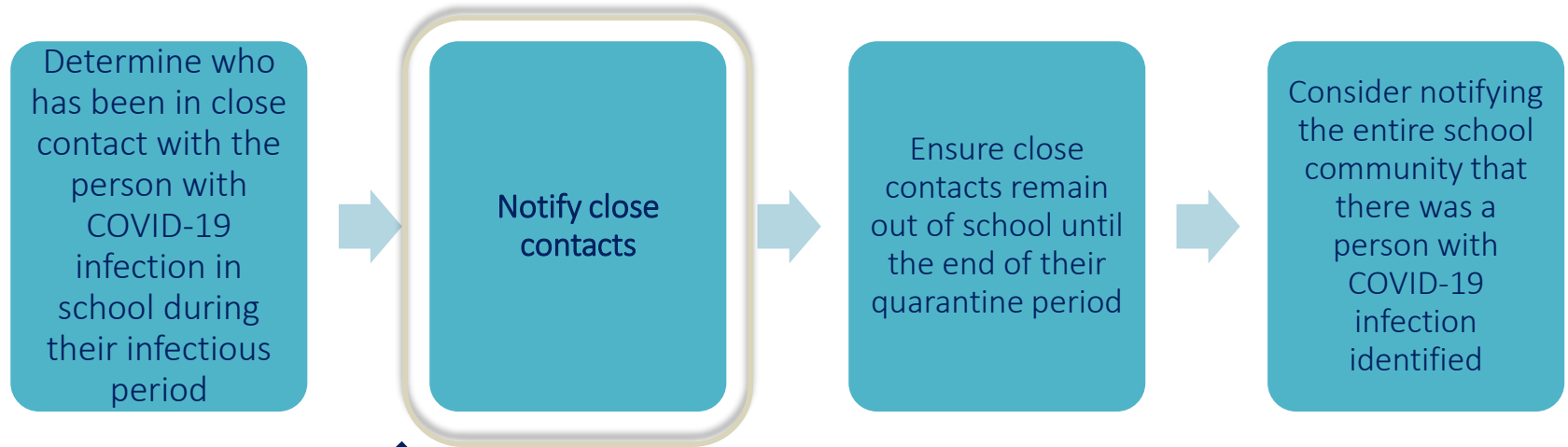
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Identify Close Contacts

| Determine who has been in close contact with the person with COVID-19 infection in school during their infectious period | → | Notify close contacts | → | Ensure close contacts remain out of school until the end of their quarantine period | → | Consider notifying the entire school community that there was a person with COVID-19 infection identified |
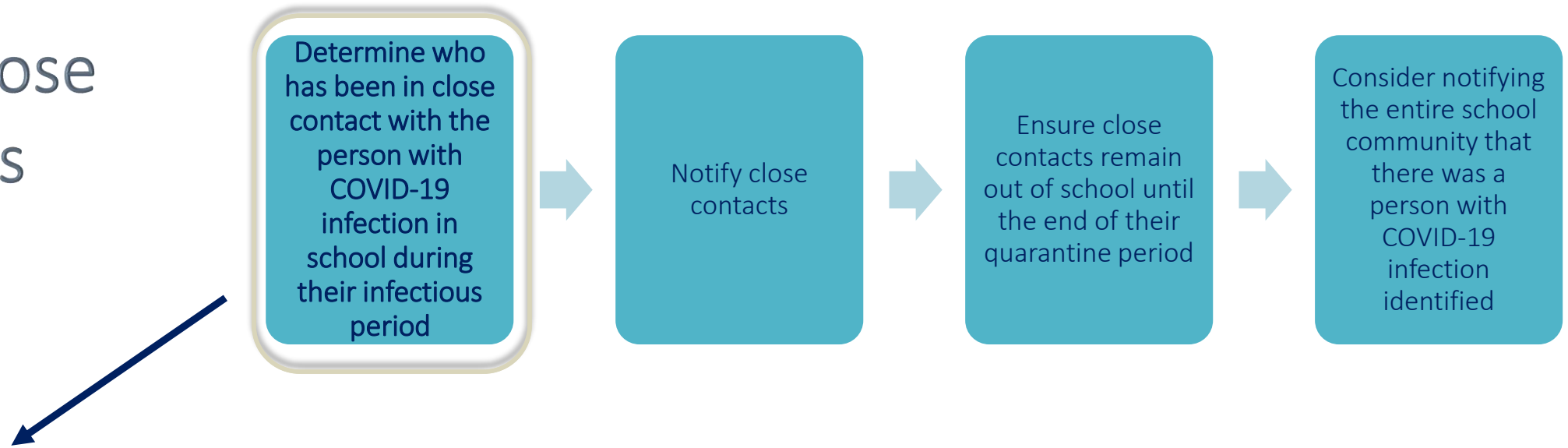
If a close contact is identified **who was diagnosed with COVID-19** by a positive molecular/PCR test within the last *90 days* <u>and</u>

- They **do not have symptoms**, they do <u>not</u> need to quarantine *unless* symptoms develop.

- They **do have symptoms**, they should self-quarantine <u>immediately</u> for **14 days** and consult with a medical provider to determine if they may have been re-infected with COVID-19 or if symptoms are caused by something else.

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Notify Close Contacts

Determine who has been in close contact with the person with COVID-19 infection in school during their infectious period

→

Notify close contacts

→

Ensure close contacts remain out of school until the end of their quarantine period

→

Consider notifying the entire school community that there was a person with COVID-19 infection identified

- Notify <u>all close contacts</u> that they have been identified as having been exposed to someone who is or may be ill with COVID-19 and will need to *quarantine and stay out of school* for **14 days from the last date they were exposed.** A template letter can be provided to the school by the Office of Public Health.

- Encourage the close contacts to call the Louisiana Department of Public Health Contact Tracers at 1-877-766-2130.

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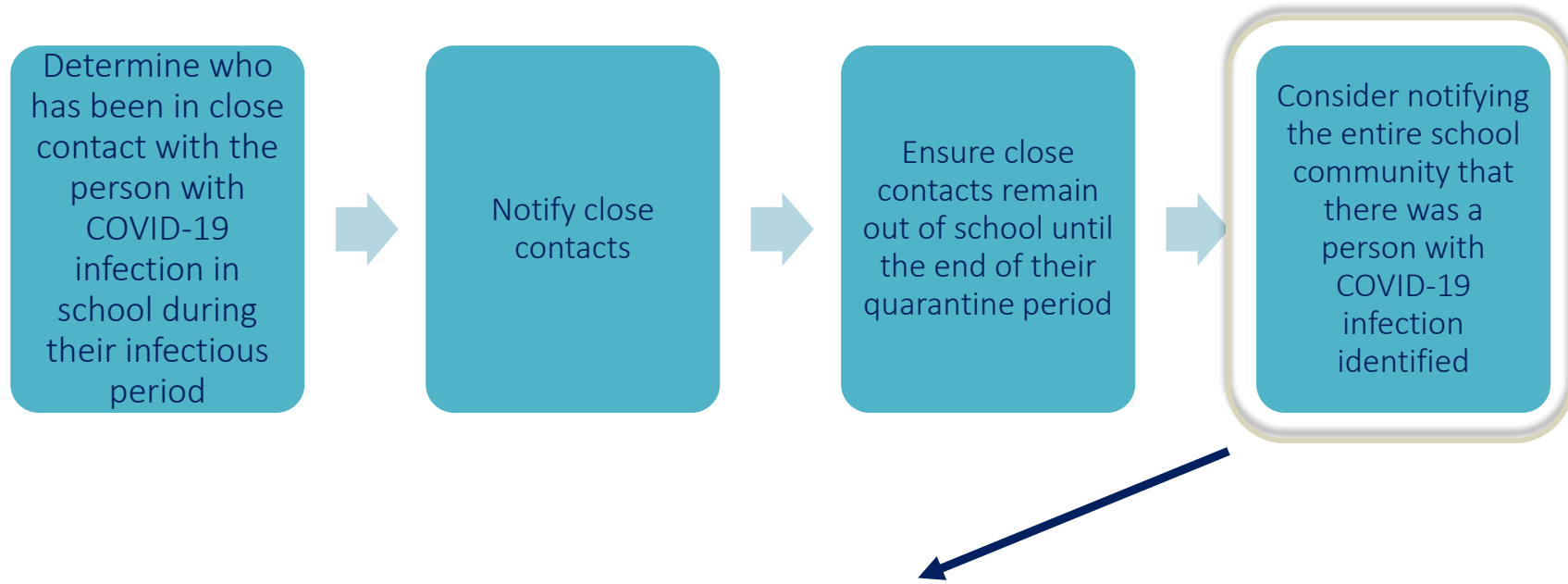# Ensure Close Contacts Remain Out of School

Determine who has been in close contact with the person with COVID-19 infection in school during their infectious period	→	Notify close contacts	→	Ensure close contacts remain out of school until the end of their quarantine period	→	Consider notifying the entire school community that there was a person with COVID-19 infection identified
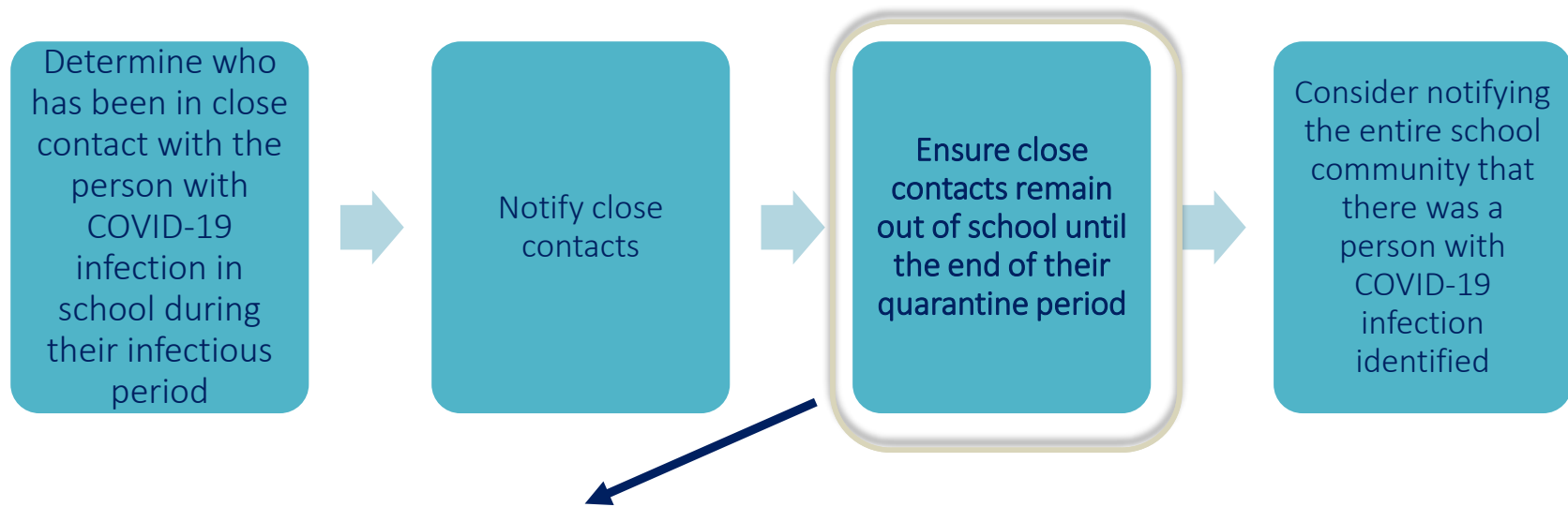
- Close contacts should not return to school until 14 days have passed from the last date they were exposed.

- If a close contact in quarantine becomes symptomatic and tests positive, they would be considered a case as of the day their symptoms began and would need to follow "end of self-isolation criteria" found on Slide 6 to return to school.

- If a close contact in quarantine becomes symptomatic but is not tested, they would be considered a case as of the day their symptoms began and would need to follow "end of self-isolation criteria" found on Slide 6 to return to school or 14 day quarantine, whichever is longer.

- If a close contact in quarantine tests positive but does not develop symptoms, they would be considered a case as of they day their test was collected and would need to follow "end of self-isolation criteria" found on Slide 6 to return to school.

- If a close contact tests negative during their quarantine period, they should remain in quarantine for the duration of the 14 days and monitor for the development of symptoms at any time during the quarantine period.

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If a negative PCR test is received on a suspect case

- The symptomatic person with a negative PCR test result may return to school after they are symptom free for 24 hours

- Quarantine of close contacts may be immediately discontinued and those individuals may return to school

- Please update the entry in the online reporting form that this person tested negative by PCR

Consider Notifying the Entire School Community

Determine who has been in close contact with the person with COVID-19 infection in school during their infectious period

→

Notify close contacts

→

Ensure close contacts remain out of school until the end of their quarantine period

→

Consider notifying the entire school community that there was a person with COVID-19 infection identified

OPH recommends considering notifying the entire school community that there was a person with COVID-19 infection identified <u>and</u> close contacts *have been notified*

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Cleaning & Disinfection According to CDC Guidelines

Close off areas used by the persons with COVID-19 and wait as long as practical before cleaning and disinfection to minimize potential for exposure to respiratory droplets

Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area

If possible, wait up to 24 hours before beginning cleaning and disinfection

Clean and disinfect all areas (e.g., offices, bathrooms, and common areas) used by the person(s) with COVID-19, focusing especially on frequently touched surfaces

Surfaces should be cleaned using soap (or a detergent) and water prior to disinfection.
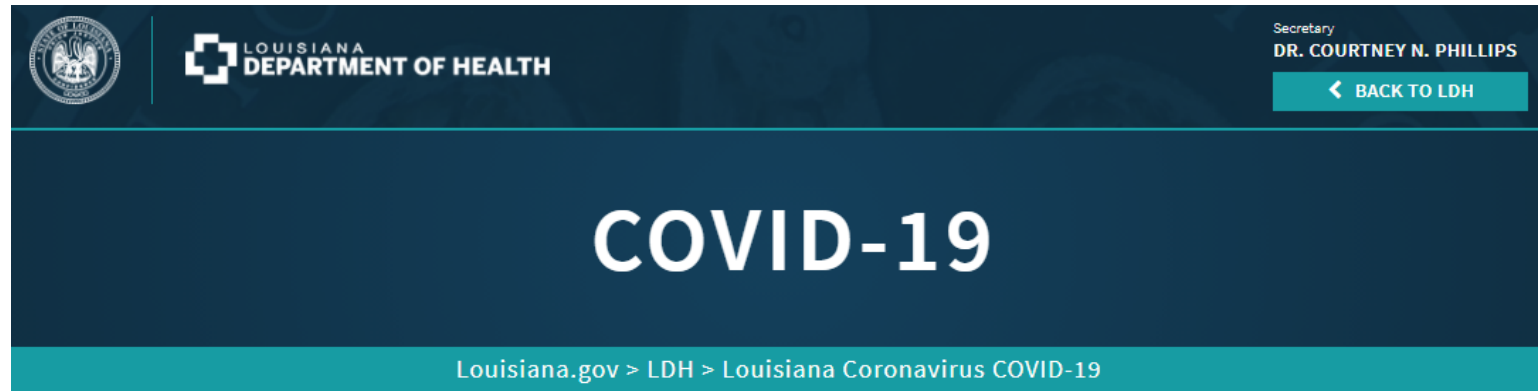
For disinfection, most common EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective against the virus that causes COVID-19.

Check EPA's list of disinfection products.

See full CDC Cleaning, Disinfection, and Hand Hygiene in Schools Guidance.

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School Resources Online

ldh.la.gov/cv19schools

SCHOOL REGISTRATION SUMMARY

1 School administrators will receive an email with a link to **COVID-19 Reporting**; this link is specific to your school. If you are unsure who your school administrator is or you have not received a link, please email schoolcovidreporting@la.gov.

2 Click the **COVID-19 Reporting** link to access the reporting portal for your school. You will have the chance to set a password which will be used for all reporting in your school and must be retained to use the system.

3 Share the **COVID-19 Reporting** link and password with other personnel who will need to access this system. For all those who expect to use the system, we recommend bookmarking the link to your browser for ease of access. If for some reason the link is lost, please reach out to schoolcovidreporting@la.gov for assistance.

WHO SHOULD BE ENTERED INTO THIS SYSTEM?
All Confirmed and Suspect Cases

1 All individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) by viral or molecular testing (Confirmed Case)

2 Any individual who has **one** of the Major Symptoms: a cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, or new loss of taste or smell without an alternative diagnosis (Suspect Case)

3 Any individual who has **two** or more Minor Symptoms without an alternative diagnosis (Suspect Case)

PLEASE REMEMBER TO UPDATE REPORTS

Case reports ask for information regarding **testing** and **isolation status**.

If a suspect case tests negative, the report should be updated with the negative result so that they are no longer considered a suspect case.

Once a case meets the end of isolation and are able to return to school, please update the isolation status to "Has met the end of isolation criteria." This will signify that an individual is no longer an active case.