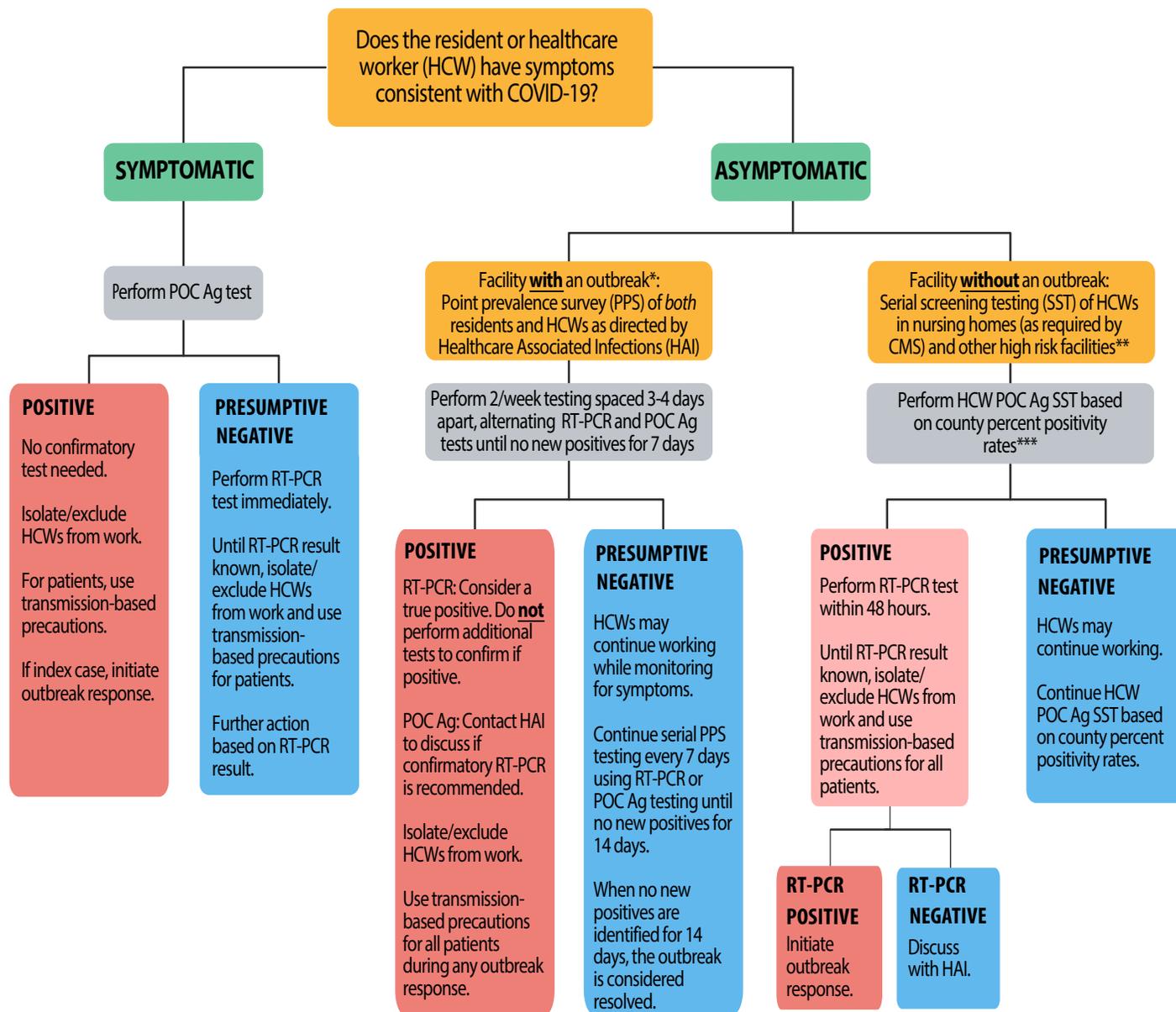


SARS-CoV-2 TESTING IN NURSING HOMES AND OTHER LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES



This algorithm should be used as guide. Clinical decisions may deviate from this guide as directed by the Healthcare Associated Infections (HAI) Program. Contextual factors, including community incidence, testing characteristics, and availability and turnaround times of RT-PCR may further inform testing recommendations.

Abbreviations / Definitions:

RT-PCR: Reverse-transcriptase polymerase chain reaction

POC Ag: Point-of-care antigen

Index case: A newly identified case of SARS-CoV-2 infection in a resident or HCW in a facility with no known infections of SARS CoV-2 infection in the previous 14-day period. An index case in a resident should not include residents with COVID-19 on admission or residents placed into transmission-based precautions on admission who develop SARS-CoV-2 within 14 days.

* HAI is committed to supporting the recommended frequency of outbreak testing using public health resources, where available. RT-PCR is performed at the Utah Public Health Laboratory (UPHL) with samples collected by mobile testing teams or by the facilities themselves using a courier service for delivery to UPHL. Additional POC Ag testing supplies may also be available. Coordinate access to testing resources with your lead HAI infection preventionist. Facilities relying on public health resources for testing must comply with all procedures for specimen sampling and processing in order to be eligible to receive these resources.

** Nursing facilities that have received access to testing resources and dedicated funds for testing distributed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human (HHS) are expected to rely on their own resources to meet SST testing requirements as set forth in the CMS QSO-20-38-NH dated August 26, 2020. HAI has identified other facility types with high COVID-19 transmission risk, including dementia care units and intermediate care units for individuals with intellectual disabilities, that have not received testing resources from HHS, and SST will be supported in these facilities as part of the public health response.

*** Serial Surveillance Testing (SST) Schedule Based on County Percent Positivity Rates:

- Less than 5%: once monthly
- 5-10%: once weekly
- Greater than 10%: twice weekly