Inpatient COVID-19 Testing Algorithm
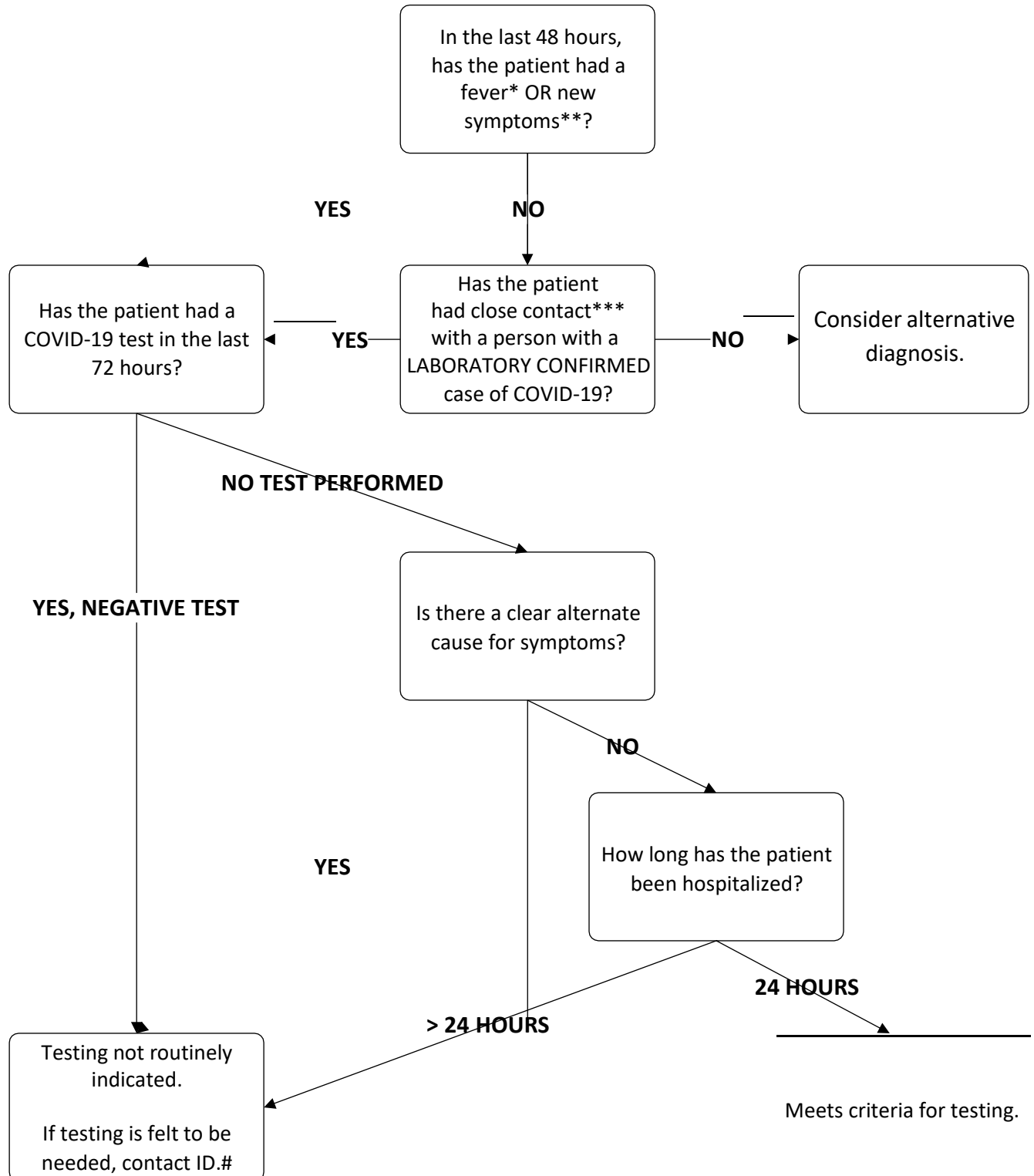
Does my patient need testing for COVID-19?

RST/MCHS Inpatient COVID-19 Testing Algorithm

In the last 48 hours, has the patient had a fever* OR new symptoms**?

YES   **NO**

Has the patient had close contact*** with a person with a LABORATORY CONFIRMED case of COVID-19?

YES → Has the patient had a COVID-19 test in the last 72 hours?

NO → Consider alternative diagnosis.

NO TEST PERFORMED

Is there a clear alternate cause for symptoms?

YES, NEGATIVE TEST

NO → How long has the patient been hospitalized?

YES

> 24 HOURS

24 HOURS

Testing not routinely indicated.

If testing is felt to be needed, contact ID.#

Meets criteria for testing.

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*Fever present at any point in the last 48 hours: can be objective (100.5 F) or subjective

**Symptoms include new: cough or shortness of breath, sore throat, diarrhea, respiratory distress, chills, myalgias, loss of smell, or change or loss of taste sensation

***Close contact is defined by CDC as household contact or:

    1. Being within approximately 6 feet of a COVID-19 patient for a prolonged period of time (more than 5 minutes).

    2. Having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g. being coughed on)

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