FACT SHEET

Abbott Panbio™ COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test: Biosafety Considerations

12/04/2020

What you should know

Abbott Panbio™ COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test Device Buffer is not effective at inactivating SARS-CoV-2. According to recent scientific evidence¹, the buffer provided with the Panbio™ device should not be relied upon to inactivate infectious samples (e.g. patient swabs).

Considerations for test users

1. **Conduct a local risk assessment (LRA) before testing with the Panbio™ COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test**

   Prior to commencing testing with Panbio™ COVID-19, we advise to conduct a LRA in order to identify potential biosafety hazards and to determine if existing risk mitigation measures are adequate, or if additional mitigation measures are needed.

2. **Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) when handling patient specimens and used devices**

   As per the manufacturer’s instructions, we advise to wear protective gloves while handling specimens, used extraction tubes, used test devices, and other potentially contaminated materials. We also advise to wash hands thoroughly after each patient testing. In addition, to minimize the risk of splashing or aerosol formation, we recommend wearing a face shield and appropriate mask, as well as any other PPE requirements applicable to your institution.

3. **Dispose of specimens, kits, and other contaminated materials carefully in an appropriate biohazard container**

   As per the manufacturer’s instructions, we advise to decontaminate and dispose of all specimens, used extraction tubes (with dispensing nozzle closed), used test devices, and other potentially contaminated materials in a biohazard container as infectious waste, and to dispose of the biohazard container according to applicable local regulations.

4. **Maintain a safe work area**

   As per the manufacturer’s instructions, we advise to avoid splashing or aerosol formation of specimen and buffer, as well as to clean up any potential spills thoroughly using an appropriate disinfectant. In addition, we advise to clean the work area using an appropriate disinfectant after each batch of testing.
References


Citation


©Queen’s Printer for Ontario, 2020

Disclaimer

This document was developed by Public Health Ontario (PHO). PHO provides scientific and technical advice to Ontario’s government, public health organizations and health care providers. PHO’s work is guided by the current best available evidence at the time of publication.

The application and use of this document is the responsibility of the user. PHO assumes no liability resulting from any such application or use.

This document may be reproduced without permission for non-commercial purposes only and provided that appropriate credit is given to PHO. No changes and/or modifications may be made to this document without express written permission from PHO.

Public Health Ontario

Public Health Ontario is an agency of the Government of Ontario dedicated to protecting and promoting the health of all Ontarians and reducing inequities in health. Public Health Ontario links public health practitioners, front-line health workers and researchers to the best scientific intelligence and knowledge from around the world.

For more information about PHO, visit publichealthontario.ca.