

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

1. Public Health England. SARS-CoV-2 inactivation testing: interim report: HCM/CoV2/049/v1 [Internet]. London: Crown Copyright; 2020 [cited 2020 Nov 26]. Available from: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/937403/HCM-CoV2-049-v1_Abbott_Panbio_COVID-19_Rapid_Test_Device_Buffer_TCF_1_.pdf

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