
Abbott and the regulatory approval of Panbio Covid-19 Nasal test
- Abbott is an American company that holds 365 medical device licenses in Canada under 19 separate legal manufacturers.
- In the context of the pandemic, Abbott has 5 authorizations under the Interim Order for the following tests:
  - Abbott Realtime SARS-COV-2 PCR COVID test (March 25, 2020)
  - Abbott Architect (May 14, 2020)
  - Abbott Alinity (June 11, 2020)
  - Abbott ID Now (September 30, 2020)
  - Abbott Panbio COVID-19 AG Rapid Test Device (NP) (October 05, 2020)
- On June 08, 2021, Health Canada issued an amendment to the authorization under the Interim Order for the Abbott Panbio COVID-19 Nasal Test to include self-collected nasal swabs under the supervision of a health care provider and use of the test by trained operators.
- On September 09, 2021, Health Canada authorized an amendment for a shelf life extension from 12 to 24 months.

The Abbott Panbio COVID-19 (Nasal Version) test
- The test identifies the presence of SARS-CoV-2 nucleocapsid protein antigen in nasal swab samples collected by a health care professional or self-collected under the supervision of a health care professional from individuals who are suspected of COVID-19 by their healthcare provider.
- The disposable test kit consists of:
  - Nasal swab
  - Testing cassette/testing device (pictured)
  - Extraction buffer
  - Extraction tubes and caps
  - Positive and negative control swabs
- The workflow includes filling the extraction tube with buffer fluid, sample collection, extraction of sample using the buffer, addition of sample to the testing device, and reading the results.
- The test operates on a single use basis, testing one individual in approximately 15 minutes.
- Clinical trials provided by the manufacturer indicate a sensitivity of 91.4% and specificity of 99.8%.
- The approved shelf life is 24 months; however, it is subject to change depending on the submission of additional real-time stability data.
Intended use

- The Abbott Panbio COVID-19 test (nasal version) is intended for use in both laboratory and point of care settings by trained operators.
- The test is for the qualitative detection of the SARS-CoV-2 nucleocapsid protein antigen in nasal swab samples either collected by a healthcare professional or self collected under the supervision of a healthcare professional.
- Samples should be collected from individuals suspected of COVID-19 by their healthcare provider.