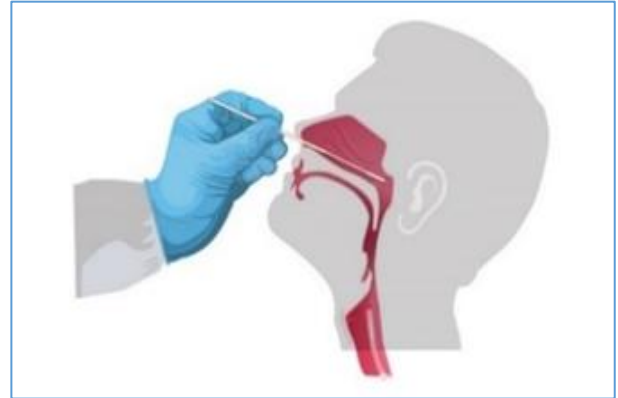




What is the RADT PANBIO™ ?

It is a rapid screening test that can be performed in the workplace, outside of a clinical setting. This method can detect parts of the COVID-19 virus envelope, called antigens, in the nose and throat. The test method is not as sensitive as the nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT) typically used in the health authorities' testing centers. This means that even an infected person can receive a negative test using RADT PANBIO. As a result, people who are at higher risk of infection (e.g. those with symptoms or who have been in contact with a case) should seek testing with the NAAT method in a designated testing center.



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

How is the test performed?

A swab is inserted deep into the nasal cavity near the back of the throat¹ to obtain respiratory secretions. This is called a nasopharyngeal swab and takes approximately 10 seconds. When screening with the RADT PANBIO™, it is recommended that the test be repeated every 3 days for at least 3 cycles in order to increase the probability of detecting the presence of viral antigen, and therefore an infected case.

What is COVID-19?

It is an infection caused by a virus (a coronavirus) that is primarily transmitted by droplets and secretions produced when an individual speaks, coughs or sneezes. Symptoms include those mentioned in the questionnaire designed for employee screening in the workplace² and in the Quebec government's COVID-19 self-assessment tool³.

Should I undergo testing?

The test is not recommended for COVID-19 cases or their close contacts. These individuals must be isolated and followed by public health authorities.

This test is not recommended for people with symptoms of COVID-19. These individuals must be isolated and seek testing in the health authorities' testing centers.

If you have had COVID-19 in the last 90 days, you should not be screened with this test.

Workplace screening using a RADT can be performed on asymptomatic employees in the following circumstances:

- At the outset of an outbreak to characterize it ;
- When there are difficulties accessing the health authority's testing services ;
- In other situations deemed appropriate by public health authorities.

Why should I be tested if I do not have any symptoms?

The reason is that some individuals may be infected and spread the virus without knowing as symptoms may be very mild or completely absent.

¹ Figure reproduced from <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html>. The use of the image published on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website in no way constitutes an endorsement by this authority of the content of this document.

² <https://www.inspq.qc.ca/publications/3042-questionnaire-symptomes-covid19>

³ <https://www.quebec.ca/sante/problemes-de-sante/a-z/coronavirus-2019/guide-auto-evaluation-symptomes-covid-19/>

Therefore, for public health authorities, it is very important to identify and promptly isolate infected individuals in order to limit community transmission including in workplaces. This is even more important now that new and more transmissible virus “variants” are starting to circulate in the province of Quebec.

Am I obligated to undergo testing if I do not have any symptoms?

The decision is yours as the test is voluntary. You may at any time decline testing. The objective of this pamphlet is to provide all the information needed to make an informed decision. The health professional conducting the test should also review this information with you before proceeding.

Are there any disadvantages to testing?

- Contraindications
 - o Testing may be contraindicated if you have had head surgery, have frequent nose bleeds or have an illness or take medications which put you at risk for major bleeding. The health professional conducting the test should verify this information with you before proceeding.
- Complications
 - o The vast majority of tests are performed without any complications. However, you may feel discomfort during the swab and on occasion there may be mild irritation or bleeding.
 - o 3 cases of cerebrospinal fluid leaking from the nose have been reported worldwide among the billions of tests performed.

What is the significance of a positive result following RADT screening?

This indicates that viral antigens may have been detected. You must immediately self-isolate at home and obtain a confirmatory test in a designated testing center as soon as possible. The health professional responsible for workplace screening will also tell you how to proceed.

What does a negative screening test mean?

This indicates that viral antigens were not detected.

- As a negative test may be falsely negative, you must continue to respect all preventive measures and monitor for symptoms.
- More rarely, a negative test result can be obtained at the very beginning of the infection.
- If you do not have any symptoms, you are not required to self-isolate unless instructed otherwise by public health because you were identified as a close contact of a COVID-19 case or if you are returning from travel outside of Canada.

In order to make a decision regarding screening you must also consider the following:

- The RADT can detect a potential infection with the COVID-19 virus even if you do not have any symptoms, however a confirmatory test is usually required;
- Undergoing testing is not a treatment for COVID-19 or its complications, nor can it determine whether you are immune. However, by undergoing screening and early detection, you may prevent further transmission to others and as such help to protect your social contacts and your community.
- If you have had close contact with a case of COVID-19 in your workplace or if public health instructs you to isolate as a result of a workplace contact, you may contact the Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail (CNESST). They will determine whether you are entitled to financial compensation.

[Questions et réponses – COVID-19 - Indemnisation](#)

[Trousse – COVID-19 : Guide et outils](#)

- ▶ For confirmatory testing following a positive RADT PANBIO test you must call **1 877 644-4545** to make an appointment. Please also follow the instructions given to you by the health professional responsible for workplace screening.

Regardless of the test results, you must continue to respect public health measures in order to protect yourself and others against the COVID-19 virus.

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English translation of original French version (2021-03-17)



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Let's continue to protect ourselves!

- Cough into your sleeve
- Wash your hands
- Keep your distance (2m)
- Cover your face
- Limit your travel

Québec.ca/coronavirus
1-877-644-4545

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