

Hage-Moussa, Vanessa

From: Martel, Camille
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2020 5:12 PM
To: Belliveau, Sébastien; Gagnon, Chantal; Hage-Moussa, Vanessa; Hughes, Vincent; Khalil, Samantha; Kim, Sabrina; Lemkay, Kevin; MacKendrick, Andrew; Sewani, Shehzad; Stickney, Matt; Thalmann, Brett; Theis, Rick; Tran, Thi; Vaillancourt, Ann-Clara; Wellstead, Alex; Ahmad, Cameron; DPMO Comms-Issues-Parl / Comm-Enjeux-Parl CVPM
Cc: MacKillop, Ken; Tessier, Jean; Butara, Frank; Mondou, Isabelle; Soni, Shannon-Marie; Paxton, Taylor; Boudreau, Sandra; Baril, Sonia; Curtner, Anna
Subject: FLAGGING: HC Authorization of the First Antigen Test

Hello,
Just hearing from Health Canada that tonight, regulators will authorize the Abbott Panbio antigen test kit for COVID-19 diagnosis. This is the first antigen rapid test authorized by Health Canada. They have media lines in urgent approvals, which I will share when possible, and can confirm they intend to update their website tonight.

For tonight, the comms approach is reactive. HC comms is looking into adding messages in speaking points (TBC) and responding to enquiries during the media tech briefing (later this week) with approved Qs/As. However, this has not been confirmed. With another technical briefing taking place on Thursday to speak to last week's vaccine submission, this is a lot of technical information for media to process, however it is still important to speak to. I understand HC will have internal discussions around a plan for technical briefings and will get back to us.

Additional information:

- Antigen testing is one of several emerging technologies that can be used to determine if a person is infected with the COVID-19 virus. The test works by detecting specific proteins associated with the virus.
- Samples for this test still need to be collected using a nasopharyngeal swab and the test should only be carried out by a health care professional.
- It provides results in just over 15 minutes, for one sample at a time.
- The test is for professional use only in point of care settings.
- A proprietary NP swab is provided with the kit.
- The Panbio test was assessed by the NML. NML's preliminary data/analysis indicated adequate performance.
- The test is intended for use in symptomatic individuals only.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Merci,
Camille

Camille Martel

Senior Analyst, Strategic Communications
Privy Council Office / Government of Canada
Camille.Martel@pco-bcp.gc.ca / Tel : 613-948-6565

Analyste principale, Communications stratégiques
Bureau du conseil privé / Gouvernement du Canada
Camille.Martel@pco-bcp.gc.ca / tél : 613-948-6565