

# Fact sheet for employers

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## Direct Saliva - COVID-19 test

This test should be performed **only** on consenting employees who have **no** symptoms of COVID-19. Employees with symptoms of COVID-19 **must** undergo a Ministry of Health (MoH) COVID-19 test and self-isolate until their results are known.

### The purpose of this Fact Sheet

This Fact Sheet contains information to help you understand the known and potential risks and benefits of using the validated direct Saliva-to-RT-qPCR test.

This is an accurate and non-invasive test for use on saliva specimens from consenting members of your workforce.

### What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The virus, which can cause mild to severe respiratory illness, was first identified in China, and has now spread globally.

Some people that test positive for COVID-19 using a test such as this, have no symptoms. This means the test is capable of detecting the presence of the COVID-19 virus in a person before symptoms start.

### What are the risks & benefits of the test?

There is a slight risk of an incorrect test result (see information below).

The benefits of this test are that it is non-invasive and there is no discomfort by taking this test.

It will give you, as an employer, confidence that the people in your workforce are free of COVID-19 and may help to limit the spread of COVID-19 to their families and others in their community.

### Why should my workplace be tested?

This test will safeguard your business and workforce from the risk of a COVID-19 outbreak.

As many COVID-19 infected people do not have symptoms, protection is best achieved through a regular screening program of all employees. This means that any case of COVID-19 will be detected early, allowing isolation to protect others.

### What if an employee gets a positive result?

If one of your employees receives a positive test result, it is very likely that they have COVID-19.

This is a notifiable disease. The MoH will be notified and the employee will be required to undergo a MoH COVID-19 confirmatory test.

The employee's healthcare provider must also be contacted. As the employer you will need to deep clean the areas where your employee has been and identify other workers that may have come into contact with the virus.

### What if an employee gets a negative result?

A negative test result means it is very likely that the employee does not have COVID-19 and can return to your COVID-free workplace.

There is a small possibility that the result is incorrect, (false negative), if the virus is below our level of detection.