

Use the Correct Lung Test at the Right Time

These recommendations can guide a discussion with your doctor about which lung function test you may need. This type of testing is used to diagnose and follow up on possible lung conditions. An Alberta specialty working group developed these recommendations using best evidence and consensus.

If signs or symptoms of:

- Asthma
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
- Chronic Cough

Ask your doctor about a **SPIROMETRY** test:

- This test includes basic measures - FEV₁, FVC, FEV₁/FVC
- It may also be called 'simple spirometry' or 'pre- and post-bronchodilator spirometry' or 'reversible bronchodilator testing'
- It's best to do this test while you have symptoms and **before** you start taking any lung medicines



If signs or symptoms of:

- Interstitial Lung Disease (ILD)
- Long COVID
- Undifferentiated Shortness of Breath (SOB)

Ask your doctor about a **FULL PULMONARY FUNCTION** test:

- This test includes these measures –
 - Spirometry (e.g., FEV₁, FVC, FEV₁/FVC)
 - Lung volumes (e.g., TLC, RV, VC)
 - Diffusion capacity (e.g., DLCO)
- It may also be called 'PFT' or 'full PFT' or 'complete PFT'



Respiratory Health Section
November 2022

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