

Summary Guidelines

WHO Guideline, 2010: Use of Influenza Rapid Diagnostic Tests

http://www.who.int/influenza/resources/publications/influenza_rapid_test/en/index.html

Purpose

The aim of these guidelines is to ensure appropriate use and interpretation of the results of RIDTs (Rapid Influenza Diagnostic Tests) combined with guidance on good quality planning prior to test deployment so that case management and disease control efforts are optimized.

Key Points

- **RIDTs can help in the diagnosis and management of patients who present with ILI** (Influenza-Like Illness) particularly if performed within the first 4 days of the onset of symptoms
 - To optimise the use of results in patient management decisions, other information such as clinical findings should be taken into account
- **RIDTs can help to quickly identify influenza A in institutions, schools and/or communities** with increasing reports of ILI and can help facilitate timely implementation of control interventions
- **Semi-closed communities, such as passengers on cruise-ships, may benefit from testing.** Outbreaks may occur at any time of the year
- **Rapid antigen detection in a proportion of ILI cases in an outbreak setting is suggestive that influenza is involved**
 - Whenever possible, at least some positive specimens should be confirmed by one of these more sensitive and specific methods
- **Despite evidence of limitations in test performance, rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDTs), if correctly interpreted, can play a role in guiding patient management, public health decision making and assisting influenza surveillance efforts**