

IS IT THE FLU?

The right test will tell you quickly and accurately.

Symptoms of influenza often resemble bacterial infections. Co-infections can exist which complicate accurate diagnosis and leaves providers asking:

Is it viral?

Is there a co-infection?

Should I prescribe an antibiotic?

Accurate diagnosis is aided by timely and convenient testing. There are three primary tests that assist providers in determining the illness.

But which test is best for your patient?



The CDC recommends that the RT-PCR method be used when the RIDT tests positive to confirm the cause of illness and eliminate false-positive results.

The CDC also recommends confirming negative RIDT results with the RT-PCR test to identify bacterial infection that may exist, limit the overprescribing of antibiotics, and eliminate false-negative results.

RIDT Rapid Influenza Diagnostic Test

PROS:

- Quick results (15 minutes or less)
- Simple to collect
- CLIA waived (Office-use approved)

CONS:

- False-negative or False-positive results are common
- Identifies only the presence of influenza A and B. No subtypes
- Specificity and sensitivity are lower than RT-PCR or viral cultures



Real Time-PCR



PROS:

- CDC Recommended Flu Test
- Quick results (24 hours or less)
- Quick and convenient specimen collection
- One test with 21 pathogens
- Identifies possible co-infections
- 98-100% accuracy
- Detects Influenza A, B, and subtypes

CONS:

- Not CLIA waived

98 - 100%
ACCURACY



1 TEST
21 PATHOGENS

VIRAL CULTURE

PROS:

- Can determine influenza A virus subtypes
- Can determine influenza A and B virus strains
- Can identify other causes of illness

CONS:

- 3-5 days turnaround for results
- Susceptible to growth-mutations and human reporting error
- 80% accuracy on-average
- Specimen collection can be uncomfortable for patients



Apollo Laboratory's PCR respiratory testing covers a broad spectrum of pathogens and offers a faster and more accurate result in the detection of respiratory pathogens.

3191 Beaumont Centre Circle, Suite 150 Lexington, Kentucky 40513
Phone: (859) 320-0412 WWW.APOLLO-LABORATORY.COM

