

Lab Med Report

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IN THIS ISSUE: Rapid Influenza Diagnostic Tests (RIDT)

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Rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDT) may help identify the presence of influenza A and B in respiratory specimens from patients with signs and symptoms of the flu.

RIDT may have both false positives and false negatives. Important characteristics of all RIDT:

- False positives are more likely when disease prevalence is low.

- False negatives are more likely to when disease prevalence is high.

Munson Medical Center provides RIDT testing (test code FLUAB/Sofia analyzer/Quidel Corporation).

Reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) testing can help confirm influenza infection; this testing is more sensitive, specific, and expensive.

References

www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/diagnosis/clinician_guidance_ridt.htm