

Rapid Flu (Influenza) Test

DESCRIPTION

The test is a qualitative test that is used to detect the presence of the Influenza viruses (Flu A or Flu B). This test helps identify if you have been exposed to either of these viruses and currently carry any of the virus. Symptoms can range from mild to severe illness. One can be infected from respiratory droplets when an infected person sneezes or coughs. Other ways that one can be infected is by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it, and then touching their mouth, nose, or eyes.

WHAT IS AN ANTIGEN TEST

By using a specialized filter with antibodies that target a variety of antigens unique to the Flu A and Flu B viruses, a small sample is filtered through the specialized antibody mixture. If antigen is present, the antibodies will bind to them and create a positive response which can then be read/identified.

WHY DO I NEED THIS TEST?

If you believe you have “the flu” (Influenza) or have had nonspecific respiratory symptoms recently and want to better identify a potential cause.

WHAT TYPE OF SPECIMEN WILL BE COLLECTED FOR THIS TEST?

This test requires either a nasal or nasopharyngeal specimen collection.

AM I REQUIRED TO FAST FOR THIS LAB TEST?

No, fasting is not required. There are no dietary or medicinal restrictions to take this test.

IS A DOCTOR'S ORDER REQUIRED?

Any Lab Test Now's ordering physician will provide the required physician's order on your behalf.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO GET MY LAB TEST RESULTS?

Results from rapid antigen tests are usually available within 10-15 minutes. Contact your testing location for more information regarding when the results will be available.

IS THIS TEST APPROVED BY THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA)?

Yes. All tests have been cleared for usage by the FDA under a CLIA Certificate of Waiver.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN IF I HAVE A POSITIVE TEST RESULT?

If you have a positive result for this test, it would indicate that viral antigen was identified and that you are considered to be infected with the virus and presumed to be contagious.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN IF I HAVE A NEGATIVE TEST RESULT?

If you have a negative result, it would mean that no viral antigen was found and it is most likely you are not infected with this particular type of virus at the time of test. It is still possible that the amount of virus was too low to detect with this initial test, or that you can still become infected later. A negative result should not be used as the sole basis for treatment or other medical management decisions and should be combined with clinical observation and patient history in some cases.

IF I AM INFECTED BUT DON'T HAVE SYMPTOMS, CAN I STILL SPREAD THE VIRUS?

Yes, some people who have been infected with these types of viruses might not display any symptoms (referred to as asymptomatic); however, they can still be contagious and spread the virus to other people.

WHAT IF I WANT TO DISCUSS THE RESULTS WITH A PHYSICIAN?

You can share your results with your healthcare provider or contact our telemedicine partner, DialCare, and they will assist you in interpreting the results. Any Lab Test Now does not diagnose or interpret results.

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Ekan Essien, MD, MPH, a native Georgian, received his BA from Duke University. Dr. Essien continued his education at Florida A&M University where he received his Masters of Public Health in Epidemiology; received his medical degree from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee; and obtained training in general and trauma surgery at Grady Memorial Hospital at Morehouse School of Medicine. He is a candidate for the post graduate fellowship in anti-aging and regenerative medicine from the American Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine.