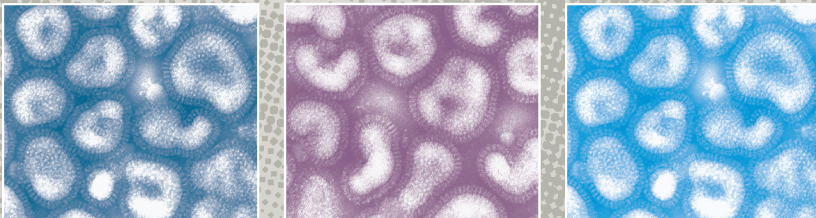


WHO Global Influenza
Surveillance Network

Manual for the laboratory diagnosis and virological surveillance of influenza



**World Health
Organization**

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Contents

Acknowledgements	v
Glossary	vi
List of contacts	vii
Objectives of the WHO manual	ix
Abbreviations	xi
Part 1: The virology and epidemiology, control and surveillance of influenza	1
1.A Influenza virology and epidemiology	3
1.B Influenza control	11
1.C Influenza surveillance	15
Part 2: The laboratory diagnosis and virological surveillance of influenza	27
2.A Collection, storage and transport of specimens	29
2.B Processing of clinical specimens for virus isolation	33
2.C Virus isolation in cell culture	35
2.D Virus isolation and passage in embryonated chicken eggs	39
2.E Identification of the haemagglutinin subtype of viral isolates by haemagglutination inhibition testing	43
2.F Serological diagnosis of influenza by haemagglutination inhibition testing	59
2.G Serological diagnosis of influenza by microneutralization assay	63
2.H Identification of neuraminidase subtype by neuraminidase assay and neuraminidase inhibition test	79
2.I Molecular identification of influenza isolates	83
2.J Virus identification by immunofluorescence antibody staining	97
2.K Use of neuraminidase inhibition assays to determine the susceptibility of influenza viruses to antiviral drugs	103
References	115

Bibliography	117
Influenza surveillance	117
Influenza control	118
Biosafety	119
Collection and transport of clinical specimens	119
Detection of influenza virus and antibodies	119
A(H5) outbreaks	121
Haemagglutination and haemagglutination inhibition	121
Molecular analysis	121
Annexes	123
Annex I Laboratory safety	125
Annex II Cell culture inoculation and passage worksheet	127
Annex III Egg inoculation record	128
Annex IV Influenza antigen standardization worksheet	129
Annex V Haemagglutination inhibition test results – field isolate identification	130
Annex VI Haemagglutination inhibition test results – serological diagnosis	132
Annex VII Microneutralization assay process sheet	133
Annex VIII Calculation of neuraminidase inhibition titre (NAI ₅₀)	137



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Glossary

Antigenic drift – the gradual alteration by point mutations of the haemagglutinin (HA) and neuraminidase (NA) proteins within a type or subtype which results in the inability of antibodies to previous strains to neutralize the mutant virus. Antigenic drift occurs in both influenza A and B viruses and causes periodic epidemics.

Antigenic shift – the appearance in the human population of an influenza A virus containing a novel HA protein with or without a novel NA protein that are immunologically different from those of isolates circulating previously. Antigenic shift is responsible for worldwide pandemics.

Disease surveillance – the systematic, continuing assessment of the health of a community, based on the collection, interpretation and use of health data. Surveillance provides information necessary for public health decision-making.

Epidemiology – the study of the distribution and determinants of health-related states or events in specified populations, and the application of this study to the control of health problems.

Influenza epidemic – an outbreak of influenza caused by influenza A or B viruses that have undergone antigenic drift. The terms “influenza epidemic” and “influenza outbreak” have the same meaning, and may occur locally or in many parts of the world during the same season.

Influenza pandemic – by convention, worldwide outbreaks of influenza caused by influenza A viruses that have undergone antigenic shift. However, as recently demonstrated, an antigenically novel virus of an existing subtype is capable of pandemic spread

Virological surveillance – the ongoing and systematic collection and analysis of viruses in order to monitor their characteristics.



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