



## Genetic Assays RVP Useful in Rapid Diagnosis of Swine Flu

Genetic Assays, Inc. Test #1201 Respiratory Viral Panel (RVP) by multiplex PCR is useful in the rapid diagnosis and surveillance of swine flu. Established in 1994, Genetic Assays is the only Tennessee-based laboratory to perform the xTAG RVP assay (Luminex Corporation). The RVP simultaneously detects and identifies 12 major respiratory viruses and viral subtypes. Most importantly, the RVP is the only commercially available FDA-approved test that can differentiate between Influenza A subtypes H1 and H3.

In response to the recent outbreaks of swine flu in the United States, Luminex conducted a computer-based comparison of the swine flu sequence (H1N1) to the PCR-amplified targets of the RVP assay. Analysis of the results indicates that the Influenza A (non-specific) target is likely to be correctly identified; however, the swine flu H1 strain will not be detected even though the CDC has identified the swine flu strain as an H1 subtype. The reason for this finding is that the new swine flu strain is significantly different from the current, seasonal H1 subtype of flu A. Therefore, if the xTAG RVP assay result is “**Detected**” for Influenza A, but subtype H1 is “**Not Detected**”, this likely correlates to a swine flu positive sample. Samples that test positive for Influenza A that cannot be subtyped should be sent to the CDC for further analysis.

“The xTAG RVP assay performed at Genetic Assays will save patients, physicians and health care institutions valuable time and money with its ability to rapidly detect or rule-out the presence of swine flu, and can assist public health departments from becoming overwhelmed and backlogged with unnecessary testing”, according to Mike Mammarelli, President and CEO of Genetic Assays, Inc.

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