NEWS BRIEF

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FDA Authorizes First At-home Test for COVID-19 and Flu

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently authorized the first at-home test that detects both influenza (flu) and COVID-19. This test is the first of its kind created by a California biotech company Lucira Health. It is self-administered via nasal swab, providing results in as little as 30 minutes.

Not only is this test taken at home, but it can also be bought without a prescription. Individuals aged 14 and older may self-administer the test, or an adult can administer the test to a child 2 years or older.

The at-home test detected 88.3% of COVID-19 infections and 90.1% of influenza A infections in those who showed symptoms, according to the FDA. Influenza B strains can be detected in lab settings with the at-home kit but require further testing.

"We are eager to continue advancing greater access to at-home infectious disease testing to best support public health needs."

- *Dr. Jeff Shuren, director of the FDA's Center for Devices and Radiological Health*

Any rapid at-home test may have false positive and false negative results. After taking an at-home test for COVID-19 and the flu, it's important to follow up with a doctor and take appropriate measures to prevent the further spread of any illness.

Although the rates of COVID-19 illness have declined, the virus is still spreading and causing hospitalizations and serious illness nationwide. Having access to these tests is helpful to properly treat COVID-19 or the flu as soon as possible.

What's Next?

At-home tests are a tool to help stop the spread of these illnesses and treat them quickly and appropriately. While these resources can provide speedy, nearly precise results, it's important to keep in mind that no at-home test is 100% accurate. Therefore, contact your provider for a diagnosis.

Stay tuned for updates from Kinloch Consulting Group, Inc. about the new at-home COVID-19 and flu tests.

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