

We estimated the time required to establish the virologic diagnosis with the multiplex PCR assays. It was found that the median interval from specimen collection to result reporting was 24.0 (IQR 24.0–48.0) hours, and the laboratory turn-around-time (from specimen receipt to reporting) was 19.7 (IQR 6.2–25.0) hours. These findings were comparable between the two participating centers. Available data on specimen collection date (n=2119); laboratory reporting date (n=1671); reporting time (n=1291). The relative proportion of NIRV/influenza cases identified (Cohort 1, 55.6%/44.4% vs Cohort 2, 53.6%/46.4%; P=0.359), and the frequencies of hospital-acquired viral infections (Cohort 1, 15.0% vs Cohort 2, 13.4%; P=0.318) were not significantly different between the two centers.