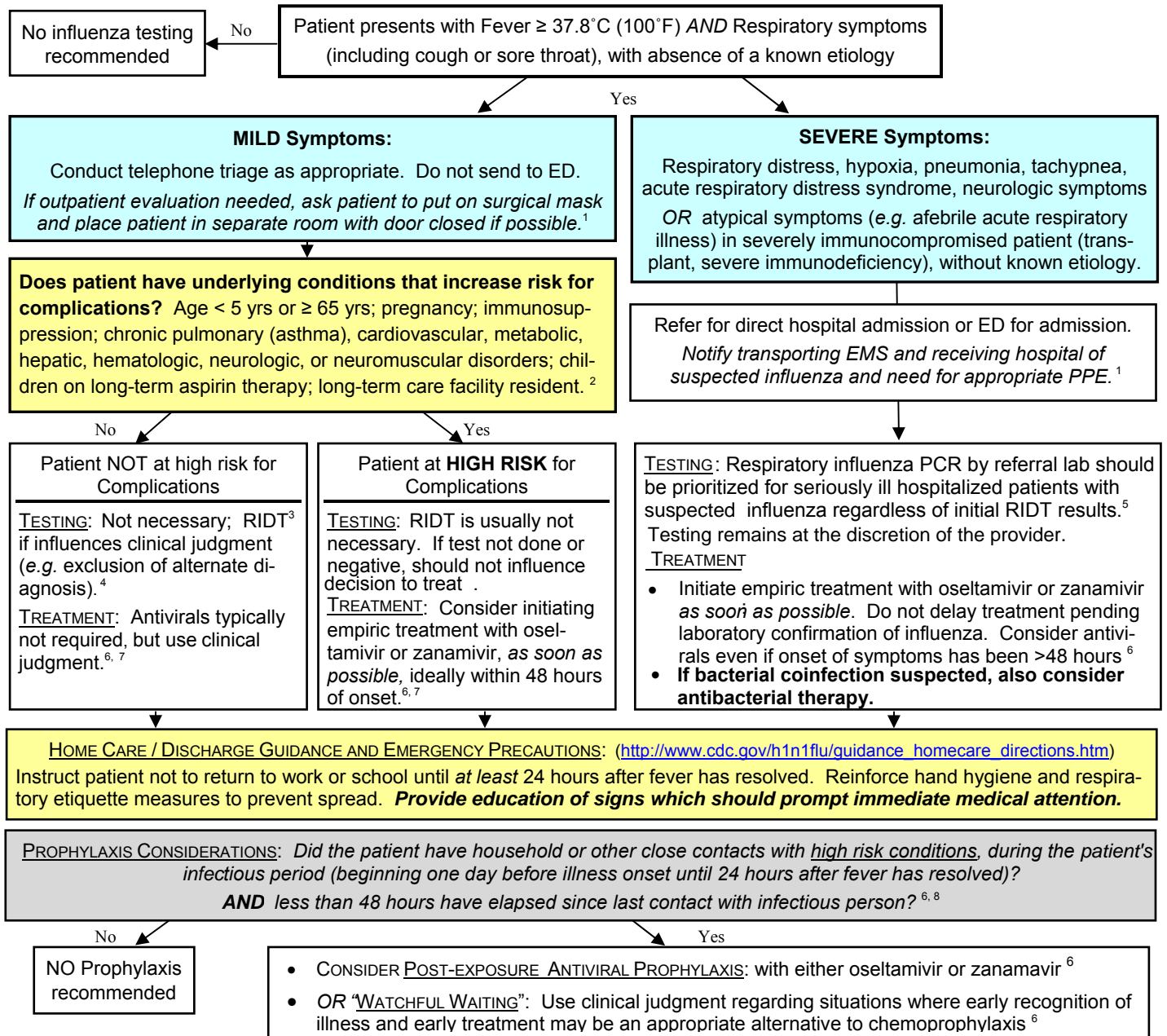


# DECISION ALGORITHM TO ASSIST WITH TESTING, TREATMENT, AND PROPHYLAXIS OF PATIENTS WITH INFLUENZA

*Revised September 18, 2009\**



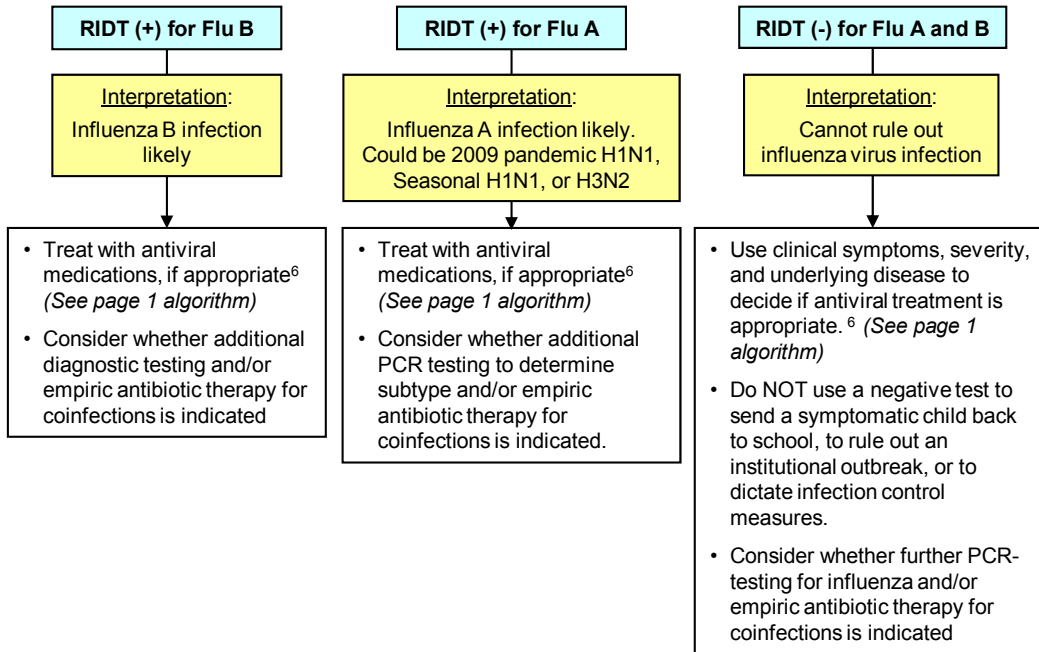
**References:**

1. Refer to institution-specific Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) guidelines; CDC HICPAC (7/23/09): [http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhgp/hicpac\\_h1n1.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhgp/hicpac_h1n1.html)
2. CDC. Prevention and Control of Influenza, 2009 MMWR 2009; 58(RR08);1-52. <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5808a1.htm>
3. CDC. Interim Guidance for Using Rapid Influenza Diagnostic Tests (RIDTs). [http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/rapid\\_testing.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/rapid_testing.htm)
4. Harper SA, Bradley JS, et al. IDSA Guidelines for Seasonal Influenza in Adults and Children. Clinical Infectious Diseases 2009; 48:1003-32
5. Referral of such specimens to commercial laboratory (e.g.Focus) for PCR testing is encouraged. DSHS is currently accepting specimens from hospitalized patients for influenza PCR testing, but submission criteria may change as season progresses. Check website for updates.
6. CDC. Updated Interim Recommendations for Use of Antiviral Medications for 2009-10. <http://www.flu.gov/vaccine/antiviralguidance.html>
7. American Academy of Pediatrics Policy Statement: Prevention and Treatment of Influenza 2009-2010. Pediatrics Sept 7, 2009; 124(4)
8. Refer to institution-specific guidelines for post-exposure management of Health Care Workers and furlough of HCWs with influenza.

*\*This algorithm is intended only as a general guide based on current circulating strains (99% 2009 H1N1).  
Clinical judgment remains an important factor in treatment decisions.*

*Updates will be available at: [www.dallascounty.org](http://www.dallascounty.org) and [www.texasflu.org](http://www.texasflu.org)*

## CDC ALGORITHM TO ASSIST IN INTERPRETATION OF RAPID INFLUENZA DIAGNOSTIC TEST (RIDT) RESULTS WHEN INFLUENZA IS CIRCULATING IN THE COMMUNITY \*



\*Adapted from CDC "Interim Guidance for the Detection of Novel Influenza A Virus using Rapid Influenza Diagnostic Tests" ([http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/rapid\\_testing.htm#ftn4](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/rapid_testing.htm#ftn4), August 10, 2009)

### ACTIONS FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS TO REDUCE DELAYS IN APPROPRIATE ANTIVIRAL INITIATION

The CDC Antiviral Guidance updated 09/08/09 places an emphasis on the use of antiviral drugs for **early treatment**, rather than for prevention. The updated guidance states that antiviral medications should not be used for prevention in healthy persons based on community exposures. To reduce delays in initiation of antiviral treatment when needed, CDC suggestions include:

- Inform patients at higher risk for influenza complications of the signs and symptoms of influenza and the need for them to get treated early.
- Ensure quick access to telephone consulting and clinical evaluation for these patients as well as patients who report severe illness.
- Consider empiric treatment of patients at higher risk of influenza complications based on telephone contact if hospitalization is not indicated and if this will substantially reduce delay before treatment is initiated. Consider providing prescriptions ahead of time for such patients.