Influenza B virus is predominantly a human pathogen, although it has been found to infect seals. The limited host range of influenza B and a slower rate of mutation than influenza A appears to preclude development of influenza B pandemics, but influenza B is a significant human pathogen and on an individual basis, infection may result in death.

Virusys has developed a highly sensitive and specific enzyme immunoassay for the detection of Influenza B nucleoprotein antigen in complex sample matrices. The assay can be completed in less than 1.5 hr. and contains only one wash step. In addition, the test kit incorporates proprietary diluents that are designed to prevent the development of nonspecific signal derived from complex sample matrix effects and/or the nonspecific adsorption of reactive test components, which result in improvements in both sensitivity and specificity. The test kit is supplied in a photometric detection format and is available in both a 2-plate size (IBV221-2) or a 5-plate size (IBV221-5).

**Components**

1. IBV Antigen Capture Plate (96 tests)-2 ea.
2. Sample Preparation Reagent (1x)-12 ml
3. IBV Positive Control (1x)-1 ml
4. IBV Negative Control (1x)- 2 x 1.5 ml
5. Wash Buffer (20x)-30 ml
6. IBV Detection Antibody, HRP-labeled (1x)-22 ml
7. Chromagen Solution (1x)-22 ml
8. Stop Solution (1x)-22 ml

**Optional Components**

IBV222 Influenza B NCP Antigen Calibration Kit

**Storage**

Store all kit components at 2-8°C. Crystal formation may occur in the wash buffer concentrate during prolonged storage at 2-8°C. The crystals can be re-dissolved by swirling the bottle in warm tap water.

**Procedure**

1. Remove the kit components from storage and allow to warm to room temperature.
2. Determine the number of test wells needed. Use one well for each sample. In addition, include one well for the Positive Control and three wells for the Negative Control.
3. To begin the assay, transfer 50 µl of Sample Preparation Reagent to the appropriate number of wells in the dilution tray provided.

4. Add 200 µl of each sample, positive control, and negative control to the IBV Sample Preparation Reagent. Mix by pipetting up and down several times.

5. Transfer 100 µl of sample or control to the appropriate wells of the IBV Antigen Capture Plate.

6. Cover the plate and incubate for 30 min. at room temperature on a plate shaker set at moderate speed.

7. Add 100 µl of 1x IBV Detection Antibody to each well, cover the plate and incubate for 45 min. on a plate shaker using the same settings (Step 6).

8. Wash the wells 6x with at least 300 µl/well 1x Wash Buffer.

9. Add 100 µl of Chromagen to each well and incubate for 10 min. on a plate shaker.

10. Stop the reaction by the addition of 100 µl of Stop Solution.

11. Shake the plate for 10-15 sec. to ensure that the reaction is uniformly stopped and then read the plate in a plate reader using a 450 nm filter.

Quality Control

1. All negative control absorbance values should be \( \leq 0.250 \).

2. The positive control absorbance value should be \( \geq 0.500 \).

3. The calculated value for the positive control/cut-off should be \( \geq 2 \) (see below).

Determination of Cut-off and Interpretation of Results

1. To determine the cut-off value, calculate the mean of the three negative control absorbance values and multiply this value by 2.

2. To interpret the results for a given sample, divide the absorbance value for the sample by the cut-off value. Calculated sample values that are \( >1.1 \) are considered reactive. Calculated sample values that are \( <0.9 \) are considered nonreactive. Calculated sample values that are \( \geq 0.9 \) and \( \leq 1.1 \) are considered equivocal.