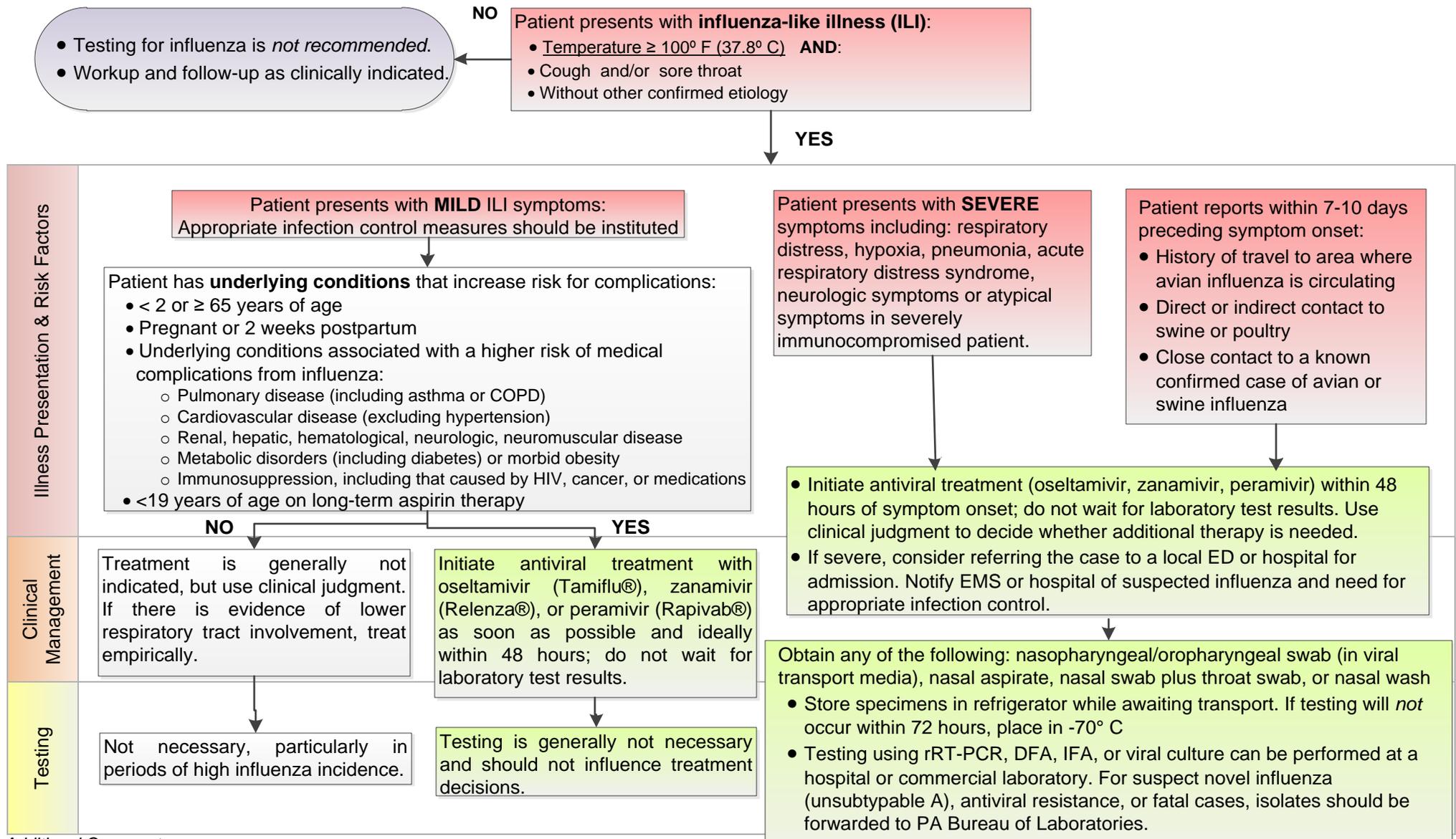


# ALGORITHM FOR TESTING AND TREATING PATIENTS WITH SUSPECTED INFLUENZA

Last updated 3/10/2016



**Additional Comments:**

- Rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDT) can be used to identify influenza. However, because of sub-optimal sensitivity for most commercial RIDTs, a negative result does not rule out influenza. Specimens should be sent for viral culture or rt-PCR testing to confirm results of RIDTs.
- Further information regarding infection control, antiviral medication use, clinical guidance for specific groups, and testing can be found at <https://hip.phila.gov/DiseaseControlGuidance/DiseasesConditions/Influenza> or [www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals).