



PUBLISHED: 8/12/2009

PRESS RELEASE

8/10/2009

ArcDia Group
Turku, Finland

Finnish company is ready for high-throughput screening of swine influenza

Finnish *in vitro* diagnostic company ArcDia Group has developed a new test for high-throughput screening of swine influenza. The benefits of the test include analysis efficiency and high performance in comparison to conventional rapid tests. The sampling in the new test is done with a swab from mucosal membranes. The test would enable testing of the whole Finnish population.

The new test is well suited for testing of large populations due to its high testing capacity. One analyser is sufficient for testing of 1,000 patient samples per day. –We will produce tests in amounts sufficient for screening of the whole Finnish population during the fall, says Docent **Aleksi Soini** from the ArcDia Group. –Testing sites can be established in medium to large health care units which would ensure availability of the test for all people with influenza-like symptoms, Soini continues. ArcDia Group will keep 100 000 test kits in the stock for fast delivery.

All persons with influenza-like symptoms should be tested immediately after the appearance of symptoms in order to allow prompt initiation of medication. Finland has limited amount of influenza virus -specific drugs and these drugs should be prescribed only to patients with swine influenza. –Available testing capacity should be taken into use to allow medication of all infected patients, not only those belonging to risk groups, says Director **Janne Koskinen** from ArcDia Group. –Not giving medication to people who would clearly benefit from it may be ethically doubtful, Koskinen continues.

The test by ArcDia Group has been developed in collaboration with university laboratories, Turku University Hospital, and The National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL). The test has been in research use in Turku University Hospital during the winter 2009 seasonal influenza epidemic.

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*ArcDia Group (www.arcdia.com) is a Finnish private company for development, manufacture, and sales of its proprietary *in vitro* diagnostic products. The measurement technology developed by ArcDia Group enables cost-efficient point-of-care testing with high performance. The products are primarily targeted for high-throughput screening and rapid multianalyte testing of respiratory tract infections.*