



Director of IHU Méditerranée Infection: Prof. Didier Raoult

Journal of Infection

The Editor-in-Chief

Marseille, February 8, 2021

Dear Editor-in-Chief,

We are submitting to the *Clinical Infectious Diseases* an article entitled “**Epidemiological surveillance of respiratory viral infections at IHU Méditerranée Infection and its application to SARS-CoV-2**” for the supplement CLINID 2020-03.

Epidemiological surveillance of infections at IHU Méditerranée Infection is based on in-house systems that use data from our microbiology-virology laboratory and continuously expand and evolve. Until 2020, respiratory samples were the third most frequent clinical samples sent to our laboratory. Over the 2015-2019 5-year period, we diagnosed >26,000 infections with respiratory viruses. The onset of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic has dramatically boosted the number of tests and diagnoses of viral respiratory infections. On December 31st, over 339 days of daily surveillance, 427,787 SARS-CoV-2 tests had been performed for 306,363 patients. The mean number of daily tests was 1.262 ± 930 (range, 8-3,596) and that of new patients tested was 904 ± 688 (7-2,835). A total of 26,327 patients were diagnosed positive, the mean daily number being 78 ± 94 (0-416), corresponding to a rate of new positive patients of 8.6% (mean: $6.1 \pm 5.4\%$ (0-25.9%)).

Our surveillance strategy allowed observing SARS-CoV-2 temporal and age distributions and coinfections with other respiratory viruses. Data accumulated using and improving our existing tools show that comprehensive real-time surveillance of emerging infections is essential. Indeed it allows observing their epidemiological characteristics that cannot be predicted or extrapolated from other infections as some are new and unexpected and whose timely knowledge is valuable for optimal biological and clinical managements.

This manuscript has been edited by a native English speaker. All of the authors have seen and approved the manuscript and contributed significantly to the work. The manuscript has not been previously published nor is not being considered for publication elsewhere.

We hope that you will find this manuscript of interest for this special issue.

Yours sincerely,

Didier Raoult

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