WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A monoclonal antibody or antibody fragment which specifically binds to a neutralizing conformational epitope of H7 hemagglutinin, wherein the monoclonal antibody is (a) monoclonal~~neutralizing conformational epitope (a) is comprised of amino acid 136Ser, 137Gly and amino acid 227Glu or (b) is comprised of amino acid 175Lys and amino acid 227Glu.~~

~~2. The monoclonal antibody or antibody fragment of claim 1, wherein the neutralizing conformational epitope of H7 hemagglutinin (a) is one to which murine monoclonal antibody 11B9 specifically binds or (b) is one to which murine monoclonal antibody 62 specifically binds.~~

~~3. The monoclonal antibody or fragment of claim 1, wherein the monoclonal antibody is (a) murine monoclonal antibody 11B9 or (b) murine monoclonal antibody 62.~~

~~4. Monoclonal~~ antibody 11B9 as produced by hybridoma 11B9 which is deposited with Cell Bank Australia with Accession Number CBA20120022 or (b) monoclonal

~~5. Monoclonal~~ antibody 62 as produced by hybridoma 62 which is deposited with Cell Bank Australia with Accession Number CBA20120023.

2~~6~~. A method for detecting an influenza A H7 subtype virus in a biological specimen which comprises contacting the specimen with a first antibody, wherein the first antibody is a monoclonal antibody or antibody fragment of claim 1~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~, and determining the presence or absence of an influenza A H7 subtype virus.

3~~7~~. The method of claim 2~~6~~ which further comprises contacting the specimen with a second antibody that specifically binds to an epitope of H7 hemagglutinin of the influenza A H7 subtype virus, wherein said second antibody contains or is

conjugated to a detectable element, wherein the contacting with the second antibody is performed before the determination.

48. The method of claim 3,7 wherein the first antibody is immobilized onto a solid surface.

59. The method of claim 37, wherein the second antibody is a monoclonal antibody or antibody fragment of claim ~~any one of claims~~ 1 ~~to 5~~.

610. The method of claim 59, wherein the first antibody is one of monoclonal antibody 11B9 or monoclonal antibody 62 and the second antibody is the other of said monoclonal antibody 11B9 or monoclonal antibody 62.

711. The method of any one of claims 37 to 610, wherein the second antibody contains a radioactive atom, is conjugated to a fluorescent molecule, or is conjugated to an enzyme.

~~812. The method of any one of claims 6 to 11, wherein the influenza A virus is an H7N7 subtype.~~

~~13~~. A kit for detecting an influenza A H7 subtype virus in a biological specimen which comprises a first antibody, wherein the first antibody is the monoclonal antibody or antibody fragment of claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ together with instructions for performing an assay to detect the influenza A virus.

914. The kit of claim 813 which further comprises a second antibody that specifically binds to an epitope of H7 hemagglutinin of the influenza A H7 subtype virus, wherein said second antibody contains or is conjugated to a detectable element.

1015. The kit of claim 914, wherein the first antibody is immobilized onto a solid surface.

11~~16~~. The kit of claim 9~~14~~, wherein the second antibody is a monoclonal antibody or antibody fragment of claim ~~any one of claims~~ 1 ~~to 5~~.

12~~17~~. The kit of claim 11~~16~~, wherein the first antibody is one of monoclonal antibody 11B9 or monoclonal antibody 62 and the second antibody is the other of said monoclonal antibody 11B9 or monoclonal antibody 62.

13~~18~~. The kit of any one of claims 9~~14~~ to 12~~17~~, wherein the second antibody contains a radioactive atom, is conjugated to a fluorescent molecule, or is conjugated to an enzyme.

14~~19. The kit of any one of claims 13 to 18, wherein the influenza A virus is an H7N7 subtype.~~

~~20~~. A composition comprising an agent and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier, wherein the agent is the monoclonal antibody or antibody fragment of claim 1~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~.

15. Use of the monoclonal antibody or antibody fragment of claim 1 for preparing a medicament for~~21. A method of~~ reducing influenza H7 subtype virus infection in a subject, or lowering the risk of influenza H7 subtype virus infection in a subject, or inhibiting infection of a subject by one or more influenza H7 subtype virus strains or isolates, or prophylaxis of influenza infection or disease by one or more influenza H7 subtype virus strains or isolates~~ which comprises administering to a subject in need thereof, a therapeutically effective amount of an agent, wherein the agent is the monoclonal antibody or antibody fragment of any one of claims 1 to 5~~.

16~~22~~. The use~~method~~ of claim 15~~21~~, wherein the subject is immunocompromised, an infant, a young child or elderly.

17~~23~~. The use~~method~~ of claim 16~~22~~, wherein the monoclonal antibody or antibody fragment~~administration~~ provides a therapeutic benefit.

18~~24~~. The use~~method~~ of claim 17~~23~~, wherein the therapeutic benefit comprises (a) inhibiting increases in influenza virus titer, (b) decreasing influenza virus titer, (c) inhibiting increases in influenza virus replication, (d) decreasing influenza virus replication, (e) inhibiting increases in influenza virus proliferation or decreasing influenza virus proliferation, (f) decreasing progression, severity, frequency, duration or probability one or more symptoms or complications associated with influenza virus infection in a subject or (g) hastening a subject's recovery from influenza virus infection.

19~~25~~. The use~~method~~ of claim 18~~24~~, wherein a symptom or complication is selected from chills, fever, cough, sore throat, nasal congestion, sinus congestion, nasal infection, sinus infection, body ache, head ache, fatigue, pneumonia, bronchitis, ear infection, ear ache and death.

20~~26. The method of any one of claims 21 to 25, wherein the influenza A virus is an H7N7 subtype.~~

~~27~~. A method for quantifying an immunogenic agent of an influenza A H7 subtype virus in a vaccine comprising an immunogenic agent of the influenza A H7 subtype virus, the method comprises contacting the vaccine with a first antibody, wherein the first antibody is the monoclonal antibody or antibody fragment of claim~~any one of claims~~ 1~~ to 5~~, and determining the amount of the immunogenic agent in the vaccine, wherein the immunogenic agent comprises an H7 hemagglutinin or antigenic portion thereof.

21~~28~~. The method of claim 20~~27~~ which further comprises contacting the specimen with a second antibody that specifically binds to an epitope of H7 hemagglutinin of the influenza A H7 subtype virus, wherein said second antibody contains or is conjugated to a detectable element.

2229. The method of claim 21,28 wherein the first antibody is immobilized onto a solid surface.

2330. The method of claim 2128 wherein the second antibody contains a radioactive atom, is conjugated to a fluorescent molecule, or is conjugated to an enzyme.

2431. The method of any one of claims 2027 to 2330, wherein the immunogenic agent comprises an H7 hemagglutinin or antigenic portion thereof.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein the immunogenic agent is expressed by an expression system.

2533. The method of claim 2432, wherein the expression system is a viral expression vector and the immunogenic agent is presented or displayed on the surface of a virus produced by the viral expression vector.

2634. A kit for identifying and/or quantifying an immunogenic agent of an influenza A H7 subtype virus in a patient's sample or in a vaccine comprising an immunogenic agent of the influenza A H7 subtype virus, which kit comprises a first antibody, wherein the first antibody is the monoclonal antibody or antibody fragment of claim 1any one of claims 1 to 5 together with instructions for performing an assay to identify and/or quantify the immunogenic agent of the influenza A H7 subtype virus in the patient's sample or in the vaccine, wherein the immunogenic agent comprises an H7 hemagglutinin or antigenic portion thereof.

2735. The kit of claim 2634 which further comprises a second antibody that specifically binds to an epitope of H7 hemagglutinin of the influenza A H7 subtype virus, wherein said second antibody contains or is conjugated to a detectable element.

2836. The kit of claim 2735, wherein the second antibody is a monoclonal antibody or antibody fragment of claim ~~any one of claims~~ 1 ~~to 5~~.

2937. The kit of claim 2836, wherein the first antibody is one of monoclonal antibody 11B9 or monoclonal antibody 62 and the second antibody is the other of said monoclonal antibody 11B9 or monoclonal antibody 62.

3038. The kit of any one of claims 2634 to 2937, wherein the second antibody contains a radioactive atom, is conjugated to a fluorescent molecule, or is conjugated to an enzyme.

3139. A method for detecting an antibody against an influenza A H7 subtype virus in a biological specimen which comprises contacting a mixture of the specimen and a control H7 hemagglutinin antigen with a first antibody, wherein the first antibody is a monoclonal antibody or antibody fragment of claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~, and determining the presence or absence of an antibody against an influenza A H7 subtype virus.

3240. The method of claim 3839 which further comprises contacting the specimen with a second antibody that specifically binds to an epitope of the control H7 hemagglutinin antigen, wherein said second antibody contains or is conjugated to a detectable element, wherein the contacting with the second antibody is performed before the determination.

3341. The method of claim 3240 wherein the first antibody is immobilized onto a solid surface.

3442. The method of claim 3240, wherein the second antibody is a monoclonal antibody or antibody fragment of claim ~~any one of claims~~ 1 ~~to 5~~.

35~~43~~. The method of claim 34~~42~~, wherein the first antibody is one of monoclonal antibody 11B9 or monoclonal antibody 62 and the second antibody is the other of said monoclonal antibody 11B9 or monoclonal antibody 62.

36~~44~~. The method of any one of claims 32~~40~~ to 35~~43~~, wherein the second antibody contains a radioactive atom, is conjugated to a fluorescent molecule, or is conjugated to an enzyme.

37~~45~~. A kit for detecting an antibody against an influenza A H7 subtype virus in a biological specimen which comprises a first antibody, wherein the first antibody is the monoclonal antibody or antibody fragment of claim 1~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ together with instructions for performing an assay to detect the antibody against an influenza A H7 subtype virus.

38~~46~~. The kit of claim 37~~45~~ which further comprises a control hemaglutinin antigen

39~~47~~. The kit of claim 37~~45~~ or 38~~46~~ which further comprises a second antibody that specifically binds to an epitope of the control H7 hemagglutinin antigen, wherein said second antibody contains or is conjugated to a detectable element.

40~~48~~. The kit of claim 39~~47~~, wherein the first antibody is immobilized onto a solid surface.

41~~49~~. The kit of claim 39~~47~~, wherein the second antibody is a monoclonal antibody or antibody fragment of claim~~any one of claims~~ 1~~ to 5~~.

42~~50~~. The kit of claim 41~~49~~, wherein the first antibody is one of monoclonal antibody 11B9 or monoclonal antibody 62 and the second antibody is the other of said monoclonal antibody 11B9 or monoclonal antibody 62.

4351. The kit of any one of claims 3947 to 4250, wherein the second antibody contains a radioactive atom, is conjugated to a fluorescent molecule, or is conjugated to an enzyme.

4452. A method for detecting the presence of influenza A H7 antigen or anti-H7 antibodies in a biological specimen which comprises

(a) contacting a sample with a capture antibody bound to a solid phase, wherein the capture antibody binds H7 antigen and is one of monoclonal antibody 11B9 or monoclonal antibody 62 of claim 1;

(b) contacting the solid phase of (a) with a detector antibody, wherein the detector antibody binds H7 antigen and is the other of monoclonal antibody 11B9 or monoclonal antibody 62 containing or conjugated to a detectable element; and

(c) determining the binding detector antibody or the amount of binding of the detector antibody,

wherein

(i) if the sample is a biological specimen that is not mixed with control H7 antigen prior to contacting with the capture antibody, bound detector antibody is indicative of the presence of influenza A H7 antigen in the biological specimen, and

(ii) if the sample is a biological specimen that is mixed with control H7 antigen prior to contacting with the capture antibody, bound detector antibody is indicative of the presence of anti-H7 antibodies in the biological specimen.

4553. A kit for detecting the presence of influenza A H7 antigen or anti-H7 antibodies in a biological specimen which comprises

(a) a first antibody which is a capture antibody, wherein the first antibody binds H7 antigen and is one of monoclonal antibody 11B9 or monoclonal antibody 62 of claim 1;

(b) a second antibody which is a detector antibody, wherein the second antibody binds H7 antigen and is the other of monoclonal antibody 11B9 or monoclonal antibody 62 containing or conjugated to a detectable element; and

(c) instructions for performing an assay to detect influenza A H7 antigen or anti-H7 antibodies.

4654. The kit of claim 4553 which further comprises a control H7 antigen.