CLAIMS

1. A test device for determining the presence of a first ligand of a first virus in a liquid sample, comprising:

a) a first sorbent strip having a first location for receiving a solution and defining a first migration path;

b) a marker conjugate adapted to move along said first migration path and bind to said first ligand;

c) a second sorbent strip distinct from said first sorbent strip and having a second location for receiving the liquid sample and defining a second migration path;

d) depletion molecules located on or in said second migration path wherein said depletion molecules include an immobilized ligand-binding element adapted to specifically bind to second ligands of a second virus that are different from but related to said first ligand by said second virus being of the same genus of said first virus said second ligand being cross-reactive with said first ligand;

e) a test site located on or in at least one of said first sorbent strip and said second sorbent strip, said test site having an immobilized first ligand binding mechanism for said first ligand; and

f) said first and second sorbent strips touching each other at the test site location, wherein said second location is removed from said test site such that sample applied to said second location requires time to migrate to said test site and does not immediately wet said test site.

2. A test device according to claim 1, further comprising:

a housing defining a first opening adjacent said first location, a second opening adjacent said second location, and a window adjacent said test site through which said test site is viewable, and said first sorbent strip and said second sorbent strip are arranged in a “T” configuration.

3. A test device according to either of claims 1 or 2, wherein:

said ligand binding mechanism of said test site is an antigen or antibody for said first ligand, and said marker conjugate comprises an antigen or antibody for the first ligand and a marker coupled to the antigen or antibody, wherein said marker is preferably a coloured marker viewable in the visible spectrum.

4. A test device according to any previous claim, wherein:

said depletion molecules comprises a conjugate including an antigen or antibody for the second ligand and particles that are not readily seen by the human eye against a background of said test site, such as white latex.

5. A test device according to any previous claim, wherein:

said first sorbent strip has a first pore size and said second sorbent strip has a second pore size with said second pore size preferably larger than said first pore size.

6. A test device according to any previous claim, further comprising:

buffer solution, wherein said marker conjugate is disposed on or in said first migration path and said buffer solution is adapted to carry said marker conjugate to said test site.

7. A test device according to any previous claim, wherein:

said first sorbent strip includes a first membrane and a first backing and said second sorbent strip includes a second membrane and a second backing, and said first sorbent strip and said second sorbent strip are arranged such that said first membrane is in contact with said second membrane, and said test device further comprises a first adhesive backing card underlying or overlying said first sorbent strip, and a second adhesive backing card underlying or overlying said second sorbent strip.

8. A test device according to any previous claim, wherein:

said first ligand is a first flu antibody, such as a pandemic flu antibody; and

said second ligand is a second flu antibody different than said first flu antibody, such as a non-pandemic flu antibody.

9. A method for testing a sample for the presence of a first ligand of a first virus, comprising:

a) obtaining a test device having a first sorbent strip having a first location for receiving a solution and defining a first migration path, a marker conjugate located on or in said first migration path, said marker conjugate adapted to specifically bind to said first ligand, a second sorbent strip distinct from said first sorbent strip and having a second

location for receiving the liquid sample and defining a second migration path, depletion molecules located on or in said second migration path wherein said depletion molecules include an immobilized ligand-binding element adapted to bind to second ligands of a second virus that are different from but related to said first ligand by said second virus being of the same genus of said first virus and said second ligand being cross-reactive with said first ligand, and a test site located on or in at least one of said first sorbent strip and said second sorbent strip, said test site having an immobilized ligand-binding mechanism for said first ligand, and said first and second sorbent strips touching each other at the test site location, wherein said second location is removed from said test site such that sample applied to said second location requires time to migrate to said test site and does not immediately wet said test site;

b) applying the sample to said second location;

c) after said applying the sample, applying a solution to the first location to cause said marker conjugate to migrate along said first migration path; and

d) inspecting said test site to determine an indication the presence or lack thereof of the first ligand in the sample.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein:

said depletion molecules comprises a conjugate including an antigen or antibody for the second ligand and particles that are not readily seen by the human eye against a background of said test site.

11. A method according to claim 9 or claim 10, wherein:

said test device has a housing defining a first opening adjacent said first location, a second opening adjacent said second location, and a window adjacent said test site through which said test site is viewable,

said applying the sample comprises depositing the sample through said second opening to said second location, said applying the solution comprises depositing the solution through said first opening to said first location, and

said inspecting comprises inspecting through said window.

12. A method according to any of claims 9-11, wherein:

said first ligand is a first flu antibody, such as a pandemic flu antibody; and

said second ligand is a second flu antibody different than said first flu antibody, such as a non-pandemic flu antibody.