





Is It the Flu? A Cold? Or COVID-19? Distinguishing Symptoms

SYMPTOMS	COVID-19	COLD	FLU
SYMPTOM ONSET	GRADUAL	GRADUAL	ABRUPT
INCUBATION PERIOD	2-14 DAYS	1-3 DAYS	1-4 DAYS
FEVER	сомммол	RARE	COMMON
FATIGUE	SOMETIMES	SOMETIMES	COMMON
СОИСН	COMMON		COMMON
SNEEZING		COMMON	
ACHES & PAINS	SOMETIMES	COMMON	COMMON
RUNNY/STUFFY NOSE	RARE	COMMON	SOMETIMES
SORE THROAT	SOMETIMES	COMMON	SOMETIMES
DIARRHEA	RARE	NO	SOMETIMES
HEADACHES	SOMETIMES	RARE	COMMON
SHORTNESS OF BREATH	SOMETIMES	NO	NO
NEW LOSS OF TASTE/SMELL	SOMETIMES	NO	NO

CHAP Community Health Accreditation Partner

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Is It the Flu? A Cold? Or COVID-19? What Do I Do?

	PREVENTION	TREATMENT	COMPLICATIONS
COVID-19	 Social distancing Masks in public Frequent hand washing 	 Rest Fever Reducers Isolation Hospitalization if needed 	 Disease can result in pneumonia and lasting damage to your lungs, kidneys, heart and brain
COLD	 Frequent handwashing Stay away from those who are sick 	• Rest • Plenty of fluids	
FLU	 Flu vaccine Avoid close contact with those who are sick Frequent hand washing 	 Rest Fever Reducers Antiviral medicine to reduce the amount of time you have the flu and prevent complications; (best when administered within 2 days of symptom onset) Recommend staying home for at least 24 hours after fever is gone without fever reducing medication 	• Flu can turn into pneumonia and very severe cases can be fatal
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Information Source: CDC