














Illness Comparison Chart

COVID-19, influenza, common cold and gastrointestinal (GI) illness

You may not have all the symptoms listed below. Symptoms may be different for everyone.

		COVID-19	Influenza (Flu)	Common Cold	GI Illness
Disease	Virus	SARS-CoV-2	Influenza virus A or B	Many viruses	Norovirus (most common)
	Immunization	COVID-19 vaccine	Influenza vaccine	No vaccine	No vaccine
	Onset	Gradual	Sudden	Gradual	Sudden
Symptoms	 Fever	✓	✓	✓	✓
	 Chills	✓	✓	✓	✓
	 Fatigue	✓	✓	✓	✓
	 Cough	✓	✓	✓	
	 Sneezing	✓	✓	✓	
	 Aches and pains	✓	✓	✓	✓
	 Runny or stuffy nose	✓	✓	✓	
	 Sore throat	✓	✓	✓	
	 Diarrhea	✓	Children only		✓
	 Nausea / vomiting	✓	Children only		✓
	 Headache	✓	✓	✓	✓
	 Shortness of breath	✓	✓		
	 Loss of taste or smell	✓			

For more information

Visit ahs.ca/influenza

April 24, 2025

© 2025 Alberta Health Services, Provincial Population & Public Health, Communicable Disease Control



This copyright work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivative 4.0 International. To view a copy of this license, see <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>. The license does not apply to AHS trademarks, logos or content for which Alberta Health Services is not the copyright owner.