







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

	COVID-19*	Influenza (Flu)	Cold	GI Illness
Cause	SARS-CoV-2 virus	Influenza A or influenza B viruses	Many viruses	Many viruses (Norovirus is the most common)
Symptoms appear quickly	Sometimes	Yes	No	Yes
Immunization	COVID-19 vaccine	Influenza vaccine	No vaccine	No vaccine
Symptoms				
 Fever	Sometimes	Common	Rare	Sometimes
 Chills	Common	Common	Sometimes	Sometimes
 Fatigue	Sometimes (more common in older adults)	Common	Sometimes	Sometimes
 Cough	Common	Common	Common	No
 Sneezing	Common	Sometimes	Common	No
 Aches and pains	Common	Common	Sometimes	Sometimes
 Runny or stuffy nose	Common	Common	Common	No
 Sore throat	Common	Common	Common	No
 Diarrhea	Common	Sometimes (especially for children)	Rare	Common
 Nausea/Vomiting	Sometimes	Sometimes (especially for children)	Rare	Common
 Headaches	Common	Common	Rare	Sometimes
 Shortness of breath	Common	Sometimes	No	No
 Loss of smell or taste	Common	No	No	No

*COVID-19 symptoms are different for everyone. You may not have all of these symptoms. This is not a complete list of symptoms for COVID-19.

ahs.ca/immunize

Sources: Provincial Immunization Program, Alberta Health Services.