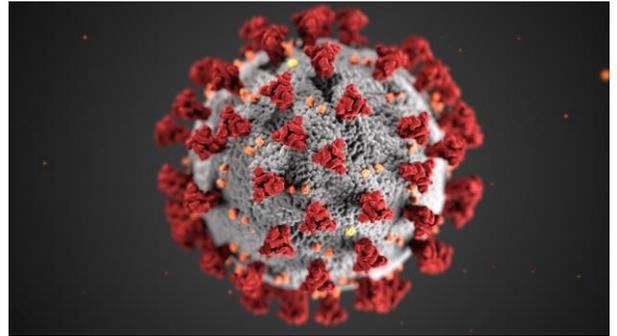


What's the difference between Coronavirus, Common Cold, Seasonal Flu, and Allergy symptoms?

Coronavirus, or COVID-19, can have similar symptoms to the common cold, seasonal flu and allergies. Coronavirus symptoms can appear 2-14 days after exposure. It is important to know the difference between symptoms to determine if medical attention is necessary.



Symptom	Coronavirus Symptoms range from mild to severe	Common Cold Gradual onset of symptoms	Seasonal Flu Abrupt onset of symptoms	Allergies Symptoms may improve or worsen depending on environment
Fever/Chills	Common	Sometimes	Common	No
Shortness of breath	Common	No	No	No
Cough	Common (usually dry)	Common	Common (usually dry)	No
Sneezing	No	Common	No	Common
Aches and Pains	Common	Sometimes	Common	No
Runny or stuffy nose	Sometimes	Sometimes	Sometimes	Common
Sore Throat	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes	No
Headaches	Sometimes	No	Sometimes	No

Figure 1: Comparison of Symptoms for Coronavirus, Common Cold, Seasonal Flu, and Allergies¹

If you or someone you know is exhibiting these symptoms, seek emergency medical care immediately:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Blue tint to the face or lips

*This is not a list of all possible symptoms. If other symptoms are severe or concerning, seek medical attention.

¹Wolfson, A., 2020. *Allergies? Common Cold? Flu? Or COVID-19?* Harvard Health Blog. Available at: <https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/allergies-common-cold-flu-or-covid-19-2020040919492> [Accessed 16 June 2020].