



# COVID-19

## Symptoms of COVID-19

Updated Feb. 22, 2021 [Print](#)

### Watch for Symptoms

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Anyone can have mild to severe symptoms. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

This list does not include all possible symptoms. CDC will continue to update this list as we learn more about COVID-19. Older adults and people who have severe underlying medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness.

#### Feeling Sick?

[Check Symptoms with Self-Checker](#)

[Get Tested for COVID-19](#)

### When to Seek Emergency Medical Attention

Look for emergency warning signs\* for COVID-19. If someone is showing any of these signs, **seek emergency medical care immediately:**

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Pale, gray, or blue-colored skin, lips, or nail beds, depending on skin tone

\*This list is not all possible symptoms. Please call your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.

Call 911 or call ahead to your local emergency facility: Notify the operator that you are seeking care for someone who has or may have COVID-19.

## If You Are Sick

- › [Check symptoms with Coronavirus Self-Checker](#)
- › [Get tested](#)
- › [What to do if you are sick](#)
- › [Isolate if you are sick](#)
- › [When to quarantine](#)
- › [How to care for someone who is sick](#)

## Difference between COVID-19 & Flu

Influenza (Flu) and COVID-19 are both contagious respiratory illnesses, but they are caused by different viruses. COVID-19 is caused by infection with a new coronavirus (called SARS-CoV-2), and flu is caused by infection with [influenza viruses](#).

COVID-19 seems to spread more easily than flu and causes more serious illnesses in some people. It can also take longer before people show symptoms and people can be contagious for longer. More information about differences between flu and COVID-19 is available in the different sections below.

Because some of the symptoms of flu and COVID-19 are similar, it may be hard to tell the difference between them based on symptoms alone, and [testing](#) may be needed to help confirm a diagnosis.

While more is learned every day about COVID-19 and the virus that causes it, there is still a lot that is unknown . This page compares COVID-19 and flu, given the best available information to date.

## Handouts & Videos

# Stop the Spread of Germs

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.



Stay at least 6 feet  
(about 2 arms' length)  
from other people.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a  
tissue, then throw the tissue in the  
trash and wash your hands.



## ◀ Stop the Spread of Germs (PDF)

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, like coronavirus disease 2019.

# Symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Know the symptoms of COVID-19, which can include the following:



Cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Fever or chills



## Symptoms of COVID-19 (PDF)

Patients with COVID-19 have experienced mild to severe respiratory illness.

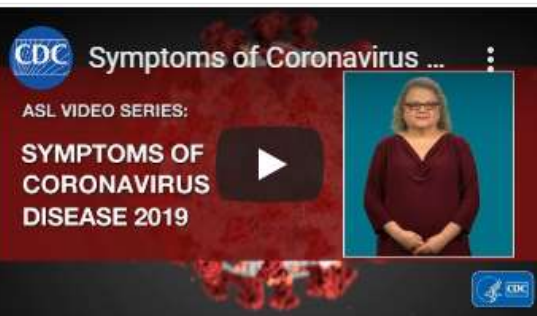
### SYMPTOMS OF CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Know the symptoms of COVID-19, which can include the following:



## Symptoms of COVID-19 (Video)

Symptoms can include fever, cough and shortness of breath.



## Symptoms of COVID-19: ASL (Video)

American Sign Language Video about symptoms.

**MORE INFORMATION**

People at Increased Risk

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Healthcare Professionals

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