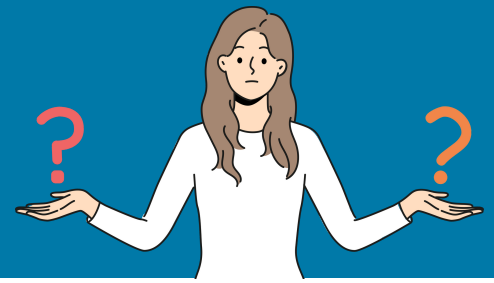







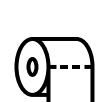





# How does COVID-19 compare to the flu?



	Common signs and symptoms	COVID-19	Flu
	Fever or chills	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Cough	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Sore throat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Fatigue (tiredness)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Headache	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Muscle or body aches	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Runny or stuffy nose	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Diarrhea	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	New loss of taste or smell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Nausea or throwing up	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Shortness of breath or trouble breathing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	



Also, COVID-19 and the flu can both:

- Cause no symptoms
- Be mild or severe
- Lead to death

## How soon do symptoms start after I get the virus from someone?

### COVID-19

Symptoms usually start about 5 days after you get the virus, but can also start 2 days or even 14 days after.

### Flu

Symptoms usually start suddenly, about 2 days after you get the virus.

## How soon am I contagious after I get the virus (able to spread the virus to others)?

### COVID-19

You can spread the virus to others just 2 days after you get the virus.

### Flu

You can spread the virus to others in the first 3 or 4 days after your symptoms start.

## Serious health problems



### Both COVID-19 and the flu can cause:

- Pneumonia (an infection that causes the lungs to swell)
- Respiratory failure (not having enough oxygen in the body tissues)
- Sepsis (a life-threatening illness caused by the body's extreme response to an infection)
- Multiple-organ failure (respiratory failure, kidney failure, shock)
- Worsening of chronic health conditions (involving the lungs, heart, or nervous system, or diabetes)

### COVID-19 can also lead to:

- Blood clots in the blood vessels of the heart, lungs, legs, or brain
- Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) and in Adults (MIS-A) that causes swelling in different body parts
- Long COVID, when a person is sick many months after getting COVID-19. Health effects can include:
  - New or ongoing symptoms such as cough, trouble breathing, feeling weak and tired, or trouble thinking (brain fog)
  - Problems with certain organs such as your heart, lungs, kidneys, or brain