

Table. Comparison of COVID-19, flu and cold symptoms

Symptoms	COVID-19 (symptoms range from mild to severe)	Flu (rapid onset of symptoms)	Cold (gradual onset of symptoms)
Aches and pains	Sometimes	Common	Common
Cough*	Common	Common	Rare
Diarrhoea	Sometimes in children	Sometimes, especially in children	No
Fatigue	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes
Fever or chills*	Common	Common	Rare
Headaches	Sometimes	Common	Rare
Loss of taste or smell*	Sudden	Rare	Sometimes
Nausea or vomiting	Rare	Sometimes	No
Runny or stuffy nose	Rare	Sometimes	Common
Shortness of breath	Sometimes	No	No
Sneezing	No	No	Common
Sore throat	Sometimes	Sometimes	Common

*A new continuous cough, a high temperature and a loss or change in sense of smell or taste are the main symptoms of COVID-19.