

Is it coronavirus (COVID-19), the flu, a cold or seasonal allergies?

All 4 can look very similar, making it hard to tell the difference. Use the chart below to help you decide when to seek care for your or your child's symptoms.

	Coronavirus (COVID-19)	The Flu	A Cold	Seasonal Allergies
<p>What are the most common symptoms?</p> <p>Keep in mind: You may have 1 or all of these symptoms.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever • Cough • Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing • Chills • Repeated shaking with chills • Muscle pain • Headache • Sore throat • New loss of taste or smell • Congestion or runny nose • Nausea or vomiting • Diarrhea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aches • Chills • Cough • Diarrhea* • Fatigue • Fever • Headaches • Runny nose • Sore throat • Stuffy nose • Vomiting* <p>*more common in children than adults</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cough • Fever* • Mucus dripping down your throat (post-nasal drip) • Runny nose • Sneezing • Sore throat • Stuffy nose • Watery eyes <p>*rare</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Itchy eyes • Runny nose • Sneezing • Stuffy nose • Watery eyes
<p>When do symptoms show up once you have been exposed?</p>	2 to 14 days after	1 to 4 days after	1 to 3 days after	Right away
<p>How long do symptoms last?</p>	Not known	3 to 7 days	7 to 10 days	As long as you're exposed to allergens

If you or your child start to feel sick, try not to panic or think the worst.

- Coronavirus shares some of the same symptoms caused by the flu and colds, including fever and cough.
- Remember, it's still cold and flu season and seasonal allergies are widespread.
- For most people who are normally healthy, coronavirus does not cause serious health problems.

How to seek care for coronavirus:

If you or your child has a fever, cough, shortness of breath, or loss of smell and/or taste, stay home and keep yourself or your child away from others as much as possible.

To find the best care, take our free COVID-19 risk assessment at AtriumHealth.org/Coronavirus, or call our 24/7 Health Line at 704-468-8888.

If your symptoms are life-threatening, call 911 immediately.

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