

# upper respiratory disorders symptoms comparison

symptom	common cold	influenza	RSV	COVID-19	pharyngitis (sore throat)	allergic rhinitis (allergies)
Sudden symptom onset		■				
Tearing eyes						■
Clogged ears						■
Nasal congestion	■		■			■
Runny nose	■	■	■			■
Sneezing	■	■				■
Postnasal drip	■					
Cough*	■	■	■	■		■
Sore throat	■	■	■	■	■	■
Swollen lymph nodes (neck)				■		
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing		■	■	■		
Headache	■	■	■	■	■	■
Body ache	■	■		■		
Chills		■				
Fatigue*		■		■		■
Nausea/vomiting		■		■		
Fever†	■	■	■	■	■	
Itching (may be anywhere)						■
Diarrhea				■		
Dehydration		■	■			
Possible complications	Bronchitis Ear infection Pneumonia Sinusitis	Pneumonia Encephalitis Meningitis Seizures	Bronchiolitis Pneumonia Respiratory failure	Pneumonia ARDS Respiratory failure Septic shock	Ear infection Mastoiditis Sinusitis Peritonsillar abscess	

## key

ARDS = Acute respiratory distress syndrome

COVID-19 = Coronavirus disease 2019

■ Characteristic symptom

■ Symptom present in some patients

\* Cough and fatigue associated with influenza may persist for weeks

† Fever associated with the common cold and fever is usually low-grade (100–102°F) and limited to children; fever associated with influenza is usually severe (102–106°F) and present in both adults and children

## references

1. **Common Cold.** Available at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000678.htm>. Accessed March 18, 2020.
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3. **Pharyngitis.** Available at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000655.htm>. Accessed March 18, 2020.
4. **Allergic Rhinitis.** Available at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000813.htm>. Accessed March 18, 2020.
5. **Coronavirus (COVID-19).** Available at <https://www.nih.gov/health-information/coronavirus>. Accessed March 18, 2020.
6. **Interim Clinical Guidance for Management of Patients with Confirmed Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19).** Available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-guidance-management-patients.html>. Accessed March 18, 2020.