

What virus do I have?

Symptoms	COVID-19	RSV	Flu
Onset of symptoms	Gradual onset then sudden escalation	Mild onset with sudden escalation	Abrupt onset
Severity of symptoms	Mild to severe	Mild to severe	Mild to severe
Length of symptoms	7-25 days	3-7 days	7-14 days
Loss of taste and/or smell	Common	Rare	Rare
Trouble breathing	Sometimes (can be severe)	Common	Not common
Cough	Common (usually dry)	Common	Common (usually dry)
Sneezing	Not common	Common	Rare
Runny/stuffy nose	Not common	Common	Sometimes
Sore throat	Sometimes	Common	Common
Fever	Common	Common	Common
Fatigue	Sometimes	Sometimes	Common
Headaches	Sometimes	Rare	Common
Body aches	Sometimes	Rare	Common
Diarrhea/nausea/vomiting	Sometimes	Rare	Sometimes



A chart created by Children's National Hospital compares symptoms associated with COVID-19, flu and RSV. (Photo: Children's National)

The severity of symptoms in all three cases varies from person to person.