Illness Comparison Chart

COVID-19, influenza, common cold, and gastrointestinal illness

You may not have all the symptoms listed below. Symptoms may be different for everyone.		COVID-19	Influenza (Flu)	Common Cold	Gastrointestinal (GI) Illness
Disease	**Virus**	SARS-CoV-2	Influenza virus A or B	Many viruses	Norovirus (most common)
	Immunization	COVID-19 vaccine	Influenza vaccine	No vaccine	No vaccine
	Onset	Gradual	Sudden	Gradual	Sudden
Symptoms	**Fever**	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Chills	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Fatigue	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Cough	✓	✓	✓	
	Sneezing	✓	✓	✓	
	Aches and pains	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Runny or stuffy nose	✓	✓	✓	
	Sore throat	✓	✓	✓	
	Diarrhea	✓	Children only		✓
	Nausea / vomiting	✓	Children only		✓
	Headache	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Shortness of breath	✓	✓		
	Loss of taste or smell	✓			

© 2026 Primary Care Alberta, Communicable Disease Control

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non-commercial-Share Alike 4.0 International license. To view a copy of this licence, see https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/. The licence does not apply to PCA trademarks, logos or content for which Primary Care Alberta is not the copyright owner.

This material is information provided as part of a specific client's treatment/procedure and is not intended for other uses; questions should be directed to a health care provider. Information is current as of date of print; see primarycarealberta.ca/immunize where vaccine information is updated regularly.

For more information about immunization

Scan the QR code or go to **primarycarealberta.ca/immunize**.

811 Call Health Link at **811**.

Revised Sep 23, 2026

Primary Care Alberta