

Table. Differences Between Influenza and COVID-19

	Influenza	COVID-19
Signs and symptoms	Fever Chills Cough Shortness of breath Fatigue/tiredness Muscle pain or body aches Sore throat Headache Runny nose Nausea/vomiting Diarrhea	Fever Chills Cough Shortness of breath Fatigue/tiredness Muscle pain or body aches Sore throat Headache Runny nose Diarrhea Nausea/vomiting Loss of sense of taste Loss of sense of smell
Time between exposure/infection to when symptoms appear	1-4 days	Typically, 5 days after infection, but could be as few as 2 days or as many as 14 days
How long an infected person can transmit the virus to others	A person can spread the flu <i>1-day</i> before their first symptoms. A person with flu is most contagious during the initial 3-4 days of infections but could be contagious up to 7 days.	A person can spread COVID-19 <i>2-days</i> before symptoms appear. A person with COVID-19 can remain contagious for at least 10 days after symptoms first appear. An asymptomatic person with COVID-19 can still spread the virus but their viral load might be lower. Not enough is known yet about asymptomatic carriers.
Complications	Pneumonia Respiratory failure Acute respiratory distress syndrome Sepsis Heart attack/stroke Multiple organ failure Secondary bacterial infections Worsening of other chronic illness Inflammation of heart, brain, or muscle tissue	Pneumonia Respiratory failure Acute respiratory distress syndrome Sepsis Heart attack/stroke Multiple organ failure Secondary bacterial infections Worsening of other chronic illness Inflammation of heart, brain, or muscle tissue Blood clots Rare but <i>serious</i> multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C) Abdominal pain Nausea Diarrhea Neck pain Rash

		Increased tiredness Bloodshot eyes
Personal Protect Equipment	When caring for a known case. Mask Goggles or face shield	When caring for all patients whether or not they are known to have COVID-19. Procedure or surgical mask with all patient visitor contact Face shield or goggles with all patient and visitor contact N-95 mask or greater for all patients with confirmed COVID-19 infection and non-confirmed patient contact having an aerosolized procedure (bronchoscopy, nebulization, noninvasive positive-pressure ventilation, open tracheal suctioning, intubation/extubation, ear, nose and throat or gastrointestinal endoscopies, transesophageal echocardiography, high-flow O ₂ , naso-enteric tube placement)
Precautions	Standard Precautions Droplet Precautions	Standard Precautions Droplet Precautions Contact Precautions in situations involving vomiting and diarrhea (currently it is unknown if COVID) can be transmitted through the GI tract
Vaccine	FDA-approved vaccines available	Under development
Treatment	Antivirals such as Tamiflu	There are no drugs or other therapeutics presently approved by the US Food and Drug Administration to prevent or treat COVID-19. Current clinical management includes infection prevention and control measures and supportive care, including supplemental oxygen and mechanical ventilatory support when indicated. ^{4,5,6} Some clinical trials are currently going on.

Source: US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention www.CDC.gov
COVID-19, coronavirus disease 2019; GI, gastrointestinal; O₂, oxygen.