




Is It Allergies, Cold, Flu, COVID-19 or RSV?

Symptoms	 Seasonal Allergies	 Cold	 Flu	 COVID-19	 RSV Bronchiolitis
Stuffy or runny nose	Often	Often	Sometimes	Sometimes	Often
Sneezing	Often	Sometimes	Sometimes	Rarely	Rarely
Wheezing	Sometimes	Sometimes	Sometimes	Rarely	Often
Itchy eyes	Often	Rarely, never	Rarely, never	Rarely	
Fever	Never	Sometimes	Often	Sometimes	Sometimes
Aches and pains	Never	Sometimes	Often	Sometimes	
Headache	Rarely	Often	Sometimes	Sometimes	
Cough	Sometimes	Often	Often	Often	Often
Vomiting	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Sometimes	Sometimes
Warning time	Symptoms occur after exposure to allergen	Gets worse over several days	Sudden onset	Variable	Gets worse over several days
How long it lasts	Weeks to months	Usually 3-14 days	Usually 10-14 days	Usually 10-14 days	Usually 2-3 weeks
Diarrhea	Never	Rarely	Rarely	Sometimes	Sometimes
Loss of taste or smell	Never*	Never*	Never*	Sometimes	
Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing	Never	Rarely	Rarely	Sometimes	Often
Fatigue	Never	Rarely	Often	Sometimes	
Sore throat		Often	Often	Sometimes	





* Stuffy nose can temporarily alter smell and taste but these senses are not lost completely.

**Occurs most commonly in children younger than 2 years old.



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When your child needs a hospital, everything matters.

COVID vs Flu vs. Common Cold vs. RSV: What You Need to Know

VIRUS	LEVEL OF INFECTIVITY	TIME FROM EXPOSURE TO INFECTION	SYMPTOMS	PREVALENCE IN CHILDREN	IMMUNIZATION AVAILABILITY
 <p>COMMON COLD <i>Rhinovirus</i></p>	<p>Less contagious</p> <p>Symptomatic individuals shed the virus during the first 2 to 3 days of infection.</p>	2 to 3 days	<p>Cough</p> <p>Low-grade fever</p> <p>Sneezing</p> <p>Sore throat</p> <p>Stuffy nose</p>	<p>Common</p> <p>Most children experience 2 to 4 colds per year; frequently associated with asthma exacerbations.</p>	None
 <p>SEASONAL INFLUENZA <i>Influenza virus (A and B)</i></p>	<p>Contagious</p> <p>Viral shedding occurs 24 hours before symptoms appear, peaking around day 3 of illness.</p>	1 to 4 days	<p>Body aches</p> <p>Chills</p> <p>Cough</p> <p>Fatigue</p> <p>Fever</p> <p>Headache</p> <p>Sore throat</p> <p>Stuffy nose</p>	<p>Common</p> <p>Children younger than 2 are at highest risk for more severe disease.</p>	Multiple approved
 <p>COVID-19 <i>Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)</i></p>	<p>More contagious</p> <p>Viral shedding occurs 2 to 3 days before symptoms appear, peaking around day 3 of illness. However, there can be viral shedding without ever developing symptoms.</p>	2 to 14 days	<p>Body aches</p> <p>Chills</p> <p>Cough</p> <p>Diarrhea</p> <p>Fatigue</p> <p>Fever</p> <p>Headache</p> <p>Loss of smell/taste</p> <p>Nausea/vomiting</p> <p>Shortness of breath</p> <p>Stuffy/runny nose</p>	<p>Becoming more common, and asymptomatic children are possible</p> <p>Typically children have mild symptoms, and rarely they develop multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) weeks after a SARS-CoV-2 infection.</p>	<p>Two- and three-dose vaccine approved for ages 6 months–4 years</p> <p>Two-dose vaccine and booster approved for ages 5 and older</p> <p>Multiple vaccines and boosters approved for adults</p>
 <p>RSV <i>Respiratory syncytial virus</i></p>	<p>Very contagious</p> <p>Symptoms can last 7 to 10 days, but some kids can develop a cough that takes up to six weeks to clear</p>	4 to 6 days	<p>Cough</p> <p>Runny nose</p> <p>Sneezing</p> <p>Fever</p> <p>Wheezing</p>	<p>Common</p> <p>Infants are at high risk for severe disease, including pneumonia or bronchiolitis, an inflammation of the small airways in the lungs.</p>	<p>Single-dose monoclonal antibody approved for infants up to 8 months of age, and certain infants up to 19 months of age with risk factors for severe RSV</p>



IMPORTANT NEWS FOR SCHOOLS AND CHILDCARE FACILITIES

Each year, to comply with New York State Public Health Law (PHL) § 613, licensed and registered day care programs, nursery schools, pre-K, kindergarten, school-age childcare programs, and public and non-public schools are required to post information about influenza (flu) and the benefits of flu vaccination at the start of flu season in early fall. Flu vaccination is more important than ever because the flu, RSV, and the virus that causes COVID-19 may all be spreading. Flu vaccination will help reduce the spread of flu, ease the burden on our health care system, and reduce the number of illnesses that interrupt education and lead to absences.

Information must be posted starting now “in plain view” in your facility where visitors can easily see it, **or** posted electronically, e-mailed, or mailed to families of all students. To help you comply with this requirement we’re sending the publication, ***Parents: Fight Flu at Home and School***. It is geared to parents and guardians and explains why flu is serious, provides signs and symptoms of the disease, and recommends annual flu vaccination to protect children from flu. Feel free to print and post this publication. It is available, along with other flu information, for free and in multiple languages here:

- The New York State Department of Health:
www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/influenza/seasonal/child_care_and_schools/

Additional free materials about flu and flu vaccination are also available from the organizations listed below.

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/resource-center/index.htm>
- Information specific to New York City Schools is available through the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene:
www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/flu-seasonal.page

The flu vaccine is the best way to prevent flu. It is recommended for everyone 6 months of age and older every year. Getting vaccinated can prevent flu-related hospitalizations and deaths in children. The vaccine can also reduce flu illnesses, doctor’s visits, and missed work and school days.

If you have questions about complying with PHL§ 613, please feel free to contact the State Health Department’s Bureau of Immunization at immunize@health.ny.gov or call (518) 473-4437.

Thank you for helping educate families about flu and the importance of flu vaccination.

August 2023



NOTICIAS IMPORTANTES PARA LAS ESCUELAS Y LOS CENTROS DE CUIDADO INFANTIL

Cada año, para cumplir con el Artículo 613 de la Ley de Salud Pública del Estado de Nueva York (PHL, por sus siglas en inglés), los programas registrados y autorizados de cuidado diurno, guarderías, prejardines de infantes, jardines de infantes, programas de atención para niños en edad escolar y escuelas públicas y no públicas deben publicar información sobre la influenza (gripe) y los beneficios de la vacunación contra la gripe al inicio de la temporada de gripe a principios del otoño. La vacuna contra la gripe es más importante que nunca porque la gripe, el virus sincicial respiratorio y el virus que causa COVID-19 se están propagando. La vacuna contra la gripe ayudará a reducir la propagación de la enfermedad, aliviará la carga sobre nuestro sistema de salud y reducirá la cantidad de enfermedades que interrumpen la educación y conducen a ausencias.

La información debe publicarse a partir de ahora a “plena vista” en su centro donde los visitantes puedan verla fácilmente, o enviarse por correo electrónico o correo postal a las familias de todos los estudiantes. Le enviamos la publicación para ayudarlo a cumplir con este requerimiento, **Padres: luchan contra la gripe en la casa y en la escuela**. Está dirigido a padres y tutores, y explica por qué la influenza es algo serio, ofrece las señales y síntomas de la enfermedad, así como recomienda la vacuna anual contra la gripe para proteger a los estudiantes. Siéntase libre de imprimir y publicar esta publicación. Está disponible en forma gratuita y en varios idiomas, junto con otra información de la gripe.

- Departamento de Salud del Estado de New York
www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/influenza/seasonal/child_care_and_schools/

También hay disponible material gratuito adicional sobre la gripe y la vacuna contra la gripe por parte de las organizaciones indicadas más abajo.

- Centros para el Control y Prevención de Enfermedades
www.cdc.gov/flu/resource-center/freeresources/print/index.htm
- Hay información específica de las escuelas de la ciudad de Nueva York disponible a través del Departamento de Salud e Higiene Mental del Estado de New York, aquí:
www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/flu-seasonal.page

La vacuna contra la gripe es la mejor forma de evitarla. Se recomienda todos los años para todos los que sean mayores de 6 meses de edad. Vacunarse puede evitar hospitalizaciones y muertes infantiles relacionadas con la gripe. La vacuna también puede reducir enfermedades originadas por la gripe, consultas médicas, así evitar inasistencias al trabajo y a la escuela.

Si tiene alguna pregunta sobre el cumplimiento del Artículo 613 de la PHL, por favor siéntase libre de comunicarse con la Oficina de Vacunación del Departamento de Salud del estado a immunize@health.ny.gov o llame al (518) 473-4437.

Gracias por ayudar a educar a las familias sobre la gripe y la importancia de su vacuna.

Agosto de 2023



Fight Flu

at Home and School

Influenza (flu), spreads easily and can make people very sick, especially kids. You can help stop flu!

Flu symptoms include:

Fever or chills, body aches, cough, sore throat, headache, runny or stuffy nose, feeling very tired. Some people, especially children, may have stomach problems and diarrhea. Unlike a cold, the flu comes on very suddenly.

Prevent flu!

- Flu vaccine is the best protection against the flu. It is recommended every year for everyone 6 months and older.
- Get the flu vaccine for you and your children every year! It helps make flu sickness milder or prevents it altogether.
- Getting the vaccine early in the fall means you and your children will be protected when flu season starts.
- Make sure people close to your children, like babysitters and relatives, are also vaccinated.
- The vaccine is especially important for people with certain medical conditions like asthma, diabetes, and heart or lung disease, because the flu can make them even sicker.

If your child gets the flu:

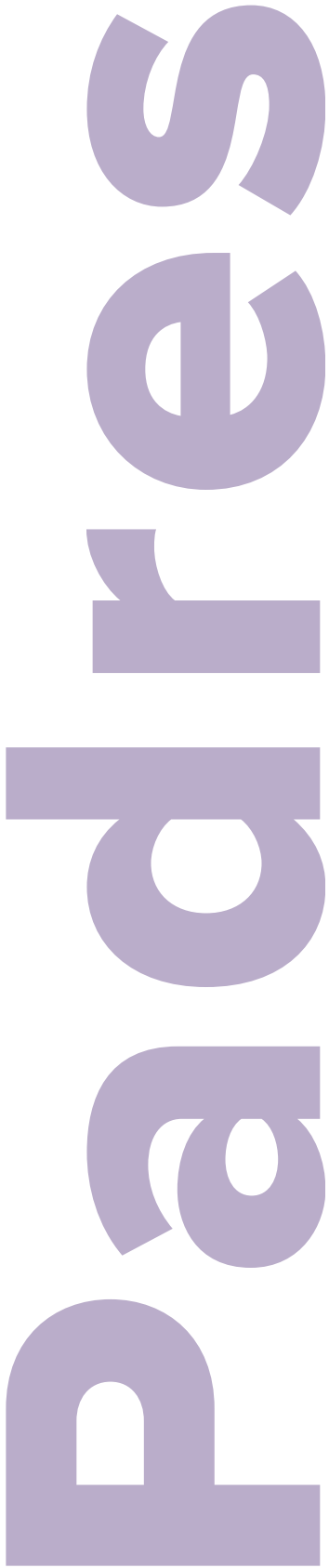
- Your child will need plenty of rest and lots of fluids.
- Keep your child home from school for at least 24 hours after their fever is gone without using fever-control medicine. This helps avoid giving the flu to others.
- Talk with your child's health care provider before giving a child any over-the-counter medicine.
- Never give your child or teenager aspirin or any medicine that has aspirin in it. Aspirin can cause serious problems for children and teens.
- Young children and those with certain medical conditions, like asthma, diabetes, and heart or lung disease, are at greater risk for getting seriously ill from the flu.
- If your child gets flu symptoms and is younger than 5 or has a medical condition, call their health care provider and ask about antiviral treatment.
- If you are worried about your child, call their health care provider.

Don't spread flu!

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If soap and water aren't handy, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue or your elbow, not your hands. Put used tissues in the trash.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. That's how germs spread.
- Stay away from people who are sick.

health.ny.gov/flu





Combatan la gripe en casa y en la escuela

La influenza (gripe) se contagia fácilmente y puede hacer que las personas se enfermen mucho, en especial los niños.

¡Ustedes pueden ayudar a prevenir la gripe!

Los síntomas de la gripe incluyen:

Fiebre o escalofríos, dolores corporales, tos, dolor de garganta, dolor de cabeza, congestión nasal o mocos, y mucho cansancio. Algunas personas, en especial los niños, pueden tener problemas estomacales y diarrea. A diferencia de un resfrío, la gripe se manifiesta repentinamente.

¡Previengan la gripe!

- La vacuna contra la gripe es la mejor protección. Se recomienda administrarla todos los años para todas las personas de 6 meses de edad o más.
- ¡Vacúnense y vacunen a sus hijos contra la gripe todos los años! La vacuna ayuda a disminuir los síntomas de la gripe o a prevenirla directamente.
- Vacunarse al comienzo del otoño significa que ustedes y sus hijos estarán protegidos cuando comience la temporada de gripe.
- Pídanles a las personas cercanas a sus hijos, como las niñeras y los familiares, que también se vacunen.
- La vacuna es de particular importancia para las personas con ciertas condiciones médicas, como asma, diabetes y enfermedades cardíacas o pulmonares, ya que la gripe puede empeorar su condición.

Si sus hijos contraen gripe:

- Necesitarán mucho reposo e ingerir muchos líquidos.
- Mantengan a sus hijos en casa para que no asistan a la escuela durante al menos 24 horas luego de que la fiebre haya desaparecido sin usar medicamentos antifebriles. Esto ayuda a evitar el contagio de la gripe a otros.
- Hablen con el proveedor de atención médica de sus hijos antes de darles a sus hijos cualquier medicamento de venta libre.
- Nunca les den a sus hijos pequeños o adolescentes una aspirina ni ningún medicamento que contenga aspirina. La aspirina puede causar problemas graves a los niños pequeños y adolescentes.
- Los niños pequeños y los que tienen ciertas condiciones médicas, como asma, diabetes y enfermedades cardíacas o pulmonares, tienen mayor riesgo de enfermarse gravemente con gripe.
- Si sus hijos menores de 5 años o con una condición médica presentan síntomas gripales, llamen a su proveedor médico y pregunten sobre el tratamiento antiviral.
- Si están preocupados por su hijo, llamen a su proveedor de atención médica.

¡No contagien la gripe!

- Lávense las manos a menudo con jabón y agua durante al menos 20 segundos.
- Si no tienen jabón y agua disponibles, usen un desinfectante de manos a base de alcohol.
- Tápense con un pañuelo desechable o con el codo al toser o estornudar; no se tapen con las manos. Tiren el pañuelo desechable en la basura después de usarlo.
- Eviten tocarse los ojos, la nariz y la boca. Así es como se contagian los gérmenes.
- Aléjense de las personas enfermas.

health.ny.gov/flu



Department
of Health