












Sorting Out Symptoms

Symptoms		Coronavirus* (COVID-19)	Cold	Flu	Seasonal Allergies
	Length of Symptoms	7-25 days (Symptoms range from mild to severe)	7-14 days (Gradual onset of symptoms)	7-14 days (Abrupt onset of symptoms)	Several weeks (Abrupt onset of symptoms)
	Cough	Common (Usually dry)	Common (Mild)	Common (Usually dry)	Rare (Usually dry unless it triggers asthma)
	Shortness of breath	Sometimes	No**	No**	No**
	Sneezing	No	Common	No	Common
	Runny or stuffy nose	Rare	Common	Sometimes	Common
	Sore throat	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes	Sometimes (Usually mild)
	Fever	Common	Short fever period	Common	No
	Feeling tired	Sometimes	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes
	Headaches	Sometimes	Rare	Common	Sometimes (Related to sinus pain)
	Body aches and pains	Sometimes	Common	Common	No
	Diarrhea	Rare	No	Sometimes for children	No

*Information is still evolving. **Allergies, colds and flus can all trigger asthma, which can lead to shortness of breath. COVID-19 is the only one associated with shortness of breath on its own.
Sources: Asthma and Allergy foundation of America, World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

