

Symptoms of COVID-19 and the flu can look similar but they are caused by different viruses. Although much attention has been given to COVID-19, the flu is showing much more of an impact on Americans.

SIMILARITIES



SYMPTOMS

- Both cause fever, cough, body aches, and fatigue.
- Can be mild or severe – even fatal in rare cases.
- Can result in pneumonia



TRANSMISSION

Both can be spread from person to person through droplets in the air from an infected person coughing, sneezing or talking.



TREATMENT

- Neither virus is treatable with antibiotics, which only work on bacterial infections.
- Both may be treated by addressing symptoms, such as reducing fever. Severe cases may require hospitalization and support such as mechanical ventilation.

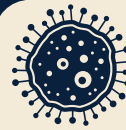


PREVENTION

Decrease the risk of spreading either virus by following these recommended actions:

- Frequent, thorough hand washing.
- Frequent use of alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Coughing into the crook of your elbow.
- Limiting visitors, especially young children.

DIFFERENCES



CAUSE

- **COVID-19:** Caused by one virus, the novel 2019 coronavirus.
- **Flu:** Caused by any of several different types and strains of influenza viruses.



VACCINE

- **COVID-19:** No vaccine is available at this time, though it is in progress.
- **Flu:** A vaccine is available and effective to prevent some of the most dangerous types or to reduce the severity of the flu.



INFECTIONS



COVID-19*

647

Flu (annually)

9 Million –
45 Million



COVID-19**

109,577

Flu (annually)

1 Billion



DEATHS



COVID-19*

25

Flu (annually)

12,000 –
61,000



COVID-19**

3,809

Flu (annually)

291,000 –
646,000