

Symptoms of coronavirus

If you have any common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), you should [self-isolate](#) and phone your GP straight away to [get a coronavirus test](#).

Common symptoms of coronavirus include:

- [a fever \(high temperature - 38 degrees Celsius or above\)](#)
- [a cough](#) - this can be any kind of cough, not just dry
- [shortness of breath](#) or breathing difficulties
- [loss or change to your sense of smell or taste](#) – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

It can take up to 14 days for symptoms to show. They can be similar to symptoms of [cold](#) and [flu](#).

Getting an early diagnosis from your GP means you can get the help you need and take steps to avoid spreading the virus, if you have it.

Compare symptoms of coronavirus, flu and cold

Symptoms	Coronavirus <small>Symptoms range from mild to severe</small>	Flu <small>Abrupt onset of symptoms</small>	Cold <small>Gradual onset of symptoms</small>
Fever or chills	Common	Common	Rare
Cough	Common (usually dry)	Common (usually dry)	Mild
Shortness of breath	Common	No	No
Lost or changed sense of smell or taste	Common	Rare	Rare
Fatigue	Common	Common	Sometimes
Aches and pains	Common	Common	Common
Sore throat	Sometimes	Sometimes	Common
Headaches	Sometimes	Common	Rare
Runny or Stuffy Nose	Sometimes	Sometimes	Common
Feeling sick or vomiting	Rare	Sometimes	No
Diarrhoea	Rare	Sometimes in children	No
Sneezing	No	No	Common

[Signs and symptoms of hay fever](#) can also be similar to symptoms of coronavirus. But hay fever does not cause a high temperature. Hay fever symptoms also get worse when you are exposed to certain triggers, such as pollen, weeds or grass. [Read more about hay fever](#).

If you are in doubt about any symptoms you have, phone your GP. They will discuss your symptoms with you and advise you on any steps you may need to take.

When a fever could be a sign of meningitis

Fever is also a symptom of meningitis.

Contact your GP immediately if you have a fever and:

- severe headache
- stiff neck
- sensitivity to light

Related topics

[How coronavirus is spread](#)

[Protect yourself and others from coronavirus](#)

[How to clean your hands](#)