

COMPARISON OF RESPIRATORY VIRUSES: RSV, INFLUENZA, COVID-19

Courtesy of Manchester Health Department

	RSV	Influenza	COVID-19
How is it Transmitted?	Droplets- in air and on surfaces. RSV can survive for many hours on hard surfaces such as tables and crib rails.	Droplets- in air and on surfaces	Airborne and Droplets- in air and on surfaces
When are people contagious?	People infected with RSV are usually contagious for 3 to 8 days but some infants, and people with weakened immune systems, can continue to spread the virus even after they stop showing symptoms, for as long as 4 weeks.	1 day before symptoms develop and up to 5 or 7 days after symptoms begin.	2 days before symptoms and 10 days after symptoms begin.
How many days after exposure will symptoms appear?	Signs and symptoms usually appear about 4-6 days after exposure to the virus.	Symptoms typically begin about 2 days (but can range from 1 to 4 days) after exposure to the virus.	Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus.
Symptoms: (symptoms common to all 3 viruses are in orange) (symptoms are common to just Influenza and COVID-19)	Runny Nose, Coughing, Fever , Decrease in appetite, Sneezing, Wheezing. In very young infants (less than 6 months old), the only symptoms of RSV infection may be: Irritability, Decreased Activity, Decreased appetite, and Apnea (pauses while breathing).	Congestion or Runny Nose, Cough, Fever, Chills, Sore Throat, Muscle or Body Aches, Headaches, and Fatigue . Some people may have nausea, vomiting and diarrhea , though this is more common in children than adults.	Congestion or Runny Nose, Cough, Fever, Chills, Sore Throat, Muscle/Body Aches, Headache, Fatigue, Nausea, Vomiting, Diarrhea , Shortness of Breath or Difficulty Breathing, and New loss of Taste or Smell.
Sources	https://www.cdc.gov/rsv/about/transmission.html	https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/disease/spread.htm	https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-covid-spreads.html
	https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/respiratory-syncytial-virus/symptoms-causes/syc-20353098	https://www.cdc.gov/flu/symptoms/symptoms.htm	https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/duration-isolation.html
	https://www.cdc.gov/rsv/high-risk/infants-young-children.html		https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html