**Symptoms of COVID-19**

*\*The information below is taken directly from the HSE website (August 2021)\**

If you have any common symptoms of COVID-19 (coronavirus), [self-isolate (stay in your room)](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/restricted-movements/how-to-self-isolate/) and get a COVID-19 test. Other people in your household will need to [restrict their movements (stay at home)](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/restricted-movements/restricted-movements/).

To get a free COVID-19 test you can:

* phone a GP
* [book a test online](https://covid19test.healthservice.ie/hse-self-referral/)
* [go to a walk-in test centre](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/testing/walk-in-test-centres/)

**Common symptoms**

Common symptoms of COVID-19 include:

* [a fever (high temperature - 38 degrees Celsius or above)](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/fever-adults/)
* [a new cough](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/cough/) - this can be any kind of cough, not just dry
* [shortness of breath](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/shortness-breath/) or breathing difficulties
* [loss or change to your sense of smell or taste](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/lost-or-changed-sense-of-smell/) – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

You may not have all of these symptoms. It can take up to 14 days for symptoms to show. They can be similar to symptoms of cold and flu.

If you have symptoms, do not attend a vaccination appointment if you have one scheduled. You can call HSELive on [1800 700 700](tel:1800700700) to request a new appointment date.

**Immediate action required:Call 112 or 999 if:**

* you are very short of breath and cannot complete a sentence

[How to manage symptoms of COVID-19 at home](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/symptoms/treat-symptoms-home/)

**Compare symptoms of COVID-19, flu and cold**

Symptoms of COVID-19 are usually mild to severe. Flu symptoms usually come on suddenly, while cold symptoms develop gradually.

| **Compare symptoms of COVID-19, flu and cold** | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Symptoms** | **COVID-19** | **Flu** | **Cold** |
| 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 |

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.

[Read about how COVID-19 is spread](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/preventing-the-spread/how-coronavirus-spread/)

[Read how to protect yourself and others from COVID-19](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/preventing-the-spread/protect-yourself-and-others/)

**When a fever could be something else**

Some people may get a mild fever for a couple of days after they get the flu vaccine. This is normal.

Fever is also a symptom of meningitis.

**Urgent advice:Contact your GP straight away if**

you have a fever and other symptoms of meningitis:

* severe headache
* stiff neck
* sensitivity to light

**Last updated:** 17 June 2021 at 3.30pm

**More in**[**Symptoms and treatment**](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/symptoms/)

**Symptoms**

* [Symptoms of COVID-19](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/symptoms/overview/)
* [If your child has symptoms](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/symptoms/symptoms-child/)
* [When to get medical help](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/symptoms/medical-help-treatment/)

**Treatment and recovery**

* [Treating symptoms at home](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/symptoms/treat-symptoms-home/)
* [Recovering after COVID-19](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/symptoms/recovering/)
* [Eating well while recovering](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/symptoms/eating-well/)
* [Fatigue after COVID-19](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/symptoms/fatigue/)
* [Clearing your lungs](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/symptoms/clearing-lungs/)
* [Breathlessness after COVID-19](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/symptoms/breathlessness/)
* [Exercise while recovering](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/symptoms/exercise/)
* [Swallowing difficulties and voice problems](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/symptoms/swallowing-voice-problems/)