


Is It Allergies, Cold, Flu, COVID-19 or RSV?

Symptoms	 Seasonal Allergies	 Cold	 Flu	 COVID-19	 RSV Bronchiolitis
Stuffy or runny nose	Often	Often	Sometimes	Sometimes	Often
Sneezing	Often	Sometimes	Sometimes	Rarely	Rarely
Wheezing	Sometimes	Sometimes	Sometimes	Rarely	Often
Itchy eyes	Often	Rarely, never	Rarely, never	Rarely	
Fever	Never	Sometimes	Often	Sometimes	Sometimes
Aches and pains	Never	Sometimes	Often	Sometimes	
Headache	Rarely	Often	Sometimes	Sometimes	
Cough	Sometimes	Often	Often	Often	Often
Vomiting	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Sometimes	Sometimes
Warning time	Symptoms occur after exposure to allergen	Gets worse over several days	Sudden onset	Variable	Gets worse over several days
How long it lasts	Weeks to months	Usually 3-14 days	Usually 10-14 days	Usually 10-14 days	Usually 2-3 weeks
Diarrhea	Never	Rarely	Rarely	Sometimes	Sometimes
Loss of taste or smell	Never*	Never*	Never*	Sometimes	
Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing	Never	Rarely	Rarely	Sometimes	Often
Fatigue	Never	Rarely	Often	Sometimes	
Sore throat		Often	Often	Sometimes	

* Stuffy nose can temporarily alter smell and taste but these senses are not lost completely.

**Occurs most commonly in children younger than 2 years old.



NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S®
When your child needs a hospital, everything matters.