

Symptom	Influenza ("Flu")	Cold (Viral upper respiratory infection)	Pertussis
Fever	Usually present and high (102-104°F or 39-40°C); typically lasts 3-4 days	Uncommon	Uncommon If present, typically low-grade
Headache	Very common	Uncommon	Uncommon
Aches and pains, muscle aches, chest discomfort	Common, Often severe	Slight to Moderate	Uncommon
Fatigue and weakness	Moderate - severe; can last up to 14-21 days	Mild	Mild to moderate
Extreme exhaustion	Very common early in illness	Extremely Rare	Rare
Stuffy nose, sore throat, cough (often worse at night)	Common	Common	Common

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	typical; nocturnal cough rare	rare; usually responds to cough medications	common; generally not responsive to cough medications
Severity	Moderate	Mild to Moderate	Variable; can be mild in adults and very severe in infants and young children
Duration	Typically 3-7 days; occasionally to 14 days	Typically 3-7 days	Persistent cough, almost always >1 week, usually 2-6 weeks, sometimes 10+ weeks
Paroxysms	Uncommon	Rare	Common
Infectious Period	1-2 days before symptom onset to 5-10 days after	Variable; typically 4-7 days after symptom onset; can be longer	From start of catarrhal phase (before cough) to 21 days after cough onset*