

UNDERSTANDING COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

We learn more about COVID-19 every day, and as more information becomes available, CDC will continue to update and share information. As our knowledge and understanding of COVID-19 evolves, this guidance may change. **However, based on the best available evidence at this time:**

- **CDC does not currently recommend universal symptom screenings (screening all students grades K-12) be conducted by schools.**
- **Parents or caregivers should be strongly encouraged to monitor their children for signs of infectious illness every day.**
- **Students who are sick should not attend school in-person.**

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of reported symptoms – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear **2-14 days after exposure to SARS-CoV-2**. Symptoms can include:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

This list does not include all possible symptoms and children and youth with SARS-CoV-2 infection may experience any, all, or none of these symptoms.

Many symptoms of COVID-19 are also present in common illnesses

Symptoms of COVID-19	Strep Throat	Common Cold	Flu	Asthma	Seasonal Allergies
Fever or chills	X		X		
Cough		X	X	X	X
Sore throat	X	X	X		X
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing				X	
Fatigue		X	X	X	X
Nausea or Vomiting	X		X		
Diarrhea	X		X		
Congestion or Runny Nose		X	X		X
Muscle or body aches	X	X	X		

When to seek emergency medical attention

Look for **emergency warning signs*** for COVID-19. If someone is showing any of these signs, **seek emergency medical care immediately:**

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face

*This list is not all possible symptoms. Please call your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.

Call 911 or call ahead to your local emergency facility: Notify the operator that you are seeking care for someone who has or may have COVID-19.