

# UPPER RESPIRATORY TRACT INFECTION SYMPTOMS COMPARISON

	COMMON COLD	INFLUENZA	PHARYNGITIS	ALLERGIC RHINITIS
<b>Sudden Symptom Onset</b>		•		
<b>Tearing Eyes</b>				•
<b>Clogged Ears</b>				○
<b>Nasal Congestion</b>	•			○
<b>Runny Nose</b>	•	•		•
<b>Sneezing</b>	•	•		•
<b>Postnasal Drip</b>	○			
<b>Cough*</b>	○	•		○
<b>Sore or Scratchy Throat</b>	•	•	•	○
<b>Swollen lymph nodes (neck)</b>			○	
<b>Difficulty Breathing</b>		•		
<b>Headache</b>	○	•	○	○
<b>Body Ache</b>	○	•	○	
<b>Chills</b>		•		
<b>Fatigue*</b>		•		○
<b>Nausea/Vomiting</b>		•		
<b>Fever†</b>	○	•	○	
<b>Itching (may be anywhere)</b>				•
<b>Possible Complications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ Bronchitis</li> <li>◇ Ear infection</li> <li>◇ Pneumonia</li> <li>◇ Sinusitis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ Pneumonia</li> <li>◇ Encephalitis</li> <li>◇ Meningitis</li> <li>◇ Seizures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ Ear infection</li> <li>◇ Mastoiditis</li> <li>◇ Sinusitis</li> <li>◇ Peritonsillar abscess</li> </ul>	

## NOTES

• Characteristic symptom

○ Symptom present in some patients

\* Cough and fatigue associated with influenza may persist for weeks

† Fever associated with the common cold is usually low-grade (100–102°F) and limited to children; fever associated with influenza is usually severe (102–106°F) and present in both adults and children

## REFERENCES

1. Common Cold. Available at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000678.htm>. Accessed November 27, 2012.
2. Flu. Available at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000080.htm>. Accessed November 27, 2012.
3. Pharyngitis. Available at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000655.htm>. Accessed November 27, 2012.
4. Allergic Rhinitis. Available at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000813.htm>. Accessed November 27, 2012.

(Created 12/2012)