

## Influenza vs. Colds vs. Pertussis

| Symptom  | Influenza ("Flu")   | Colds (Viral URI)   | Pertussis  |   |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| <b>Fever</b>   | Usually present & high (102-104°F or 39-40°C); typically lasts 3-4 days | Uncommon<br>If present, typically low-grade                     | Uncommon<br>If present, typically low-grade  |   |
| <b>Chills</b>  | Common  | Uncommon  | Rare   |   |
| <b>Headache</b>  | Very common   | Uncommon  | Uncommon   |   |
| <b>Aches and pains, muscle aches, chest discomfort</b> | Very common<br>Often severe   | Slight to Moderate  | Uncommon   |   |
| <b>Fatigue and weakness</b>                            | Moderate - severe;<br>can last up to 14-21 days                         | Mild  | Mild;<br>Patient usually appears well between coughing attacks   |   |
| <b>Extreme exhaustion</b>                              | Very common early in illness  | Extremely Rare  | Rare   |   |
| <b>Stuffy or runny nose</b>                            | Common  | Very common   | Common, early in the disease   |   |
| <b>Sneezing</b>  | Sometimes   | Common  | Common, early in the disease   |   |
| <b>Sore throat</b>                                     | Common  | Common  | Uncommon   |   |
| <b>Cough</b>   | Character   | Non-productive ("dry") cough is typical                         | Hacking cough, often productive; usually responds to cough medications   | Variable character; fits / paroxysms and nocturnal cough are common; generally not responsive to cough medications; "whooping" may or may not occur |
|  | Severity  | Moderate  | Mild to Moderate   | Variable; mild to severe; infants appear quite ill and may present with cough or apnea  |
|  | 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 (coughing fits)   | Uncommon  | Rare   | Common; often leads to vomiting or gagging  |
| <b>Infectious Period</b>                               | 1 day before symptom onset and 3-7 days after                           | Variable; typically 4-7 days after symptom onset; can be longer | From start of catarrhal phase (before cough onset) to 21 days after cough onset*<br>Most efficient spreading after cough onset |   |

\*or until taking 5 days of appropriate anti-pertussis antibiotics