

Symptoms of COVID-19

If you have any symptoms of COVID-19 (coronavirus), [self-isolate \(stay in your room\)](#) and [get a COVID-19 test](#).

Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- [a fever \(high temperature - 38 degrees Celsius or above\)](#) - including having chills
- [a new cough](#) - this can be any kind of cough, not just dry
- [shortness of breath](#) or breathing difficulties
- [loss or change to your sense of smell or taste](#) – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal
- runny or blocked nose
- nausea, vomiting or diarrhoea
- aches and pains or tiredness
- sore throat
- headache

You may not have all of these symptoms or your symptoms may be mild. Symptoms may vary for different age groups or variants of the virus. It can take up to 14 days for symptoms to show.

Symptoms of COVID-19 can be similar to symptoms of [cold](#), [flu](#) or [hay fever](#).

If you are in doubt about any symptoms you have, phone your GP.

Immediate action required: Call 112 or 999 if:

- you are very short of breath and cannot complete a sentence

If you have symptoms of COVID-19

If you have any symptoms of COVID-19 (coronavirus), [self-isolate \(stay in your room\)](#) and get a COVID-19 test. Do this even if you are part or fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Other people in your household who are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 will need to [restrict their movements \(stay at home\)](#).

To get a free COVID-19 PCR test you can:

- [book a test online](#)

- [phone a GP](#) or [GP out-of-hours](#)

[How to manage symptoms of COVID-19 at home](#)

Important

Do not attend a vaccination appointment if you have symptoms of COVID-19. To request a new appointment, reply to your appointment text with the word 'New' or phone HSElive on [1800 700 700](#).

When a fever could be something else

Some people may get a mild fever for a couple of days after they get the [flu vaccine](#) or [a COVID-19 vaccine](#). This is normal.

Urgent advice: Contact your GP immediately if

you have a fever and other symptoms such as:

- severe headache
- stiff neck
- sensitivity to light

These symptoms may be a sign of meningitis. This needs urgent medical attention.

Last updated: 10 September 2021 at 12.20pm