

Is it **Influenza (Flu)**, a **Cold**, or **Whooping Cough?**

Symptoms

Flu

Cold

Whooping Cough

Fever	Usually present and high (102–104°F or 39–40°C); typically lasts 3–4 days	Uncommon in adults and older children	Uncommon. If present, typically mild (99.5–100.4°F or 37.5–38°C)	
Headache	Very common	Uncommon	Uncommon	
Aches and pains, muscle aches, chest discomfort	Common, often severe	Slight to moderate	Uncommon	
Fatigue and weakness	Moderate to severe; can last up 14-21 days	Mild	Mild to moderate	
Extreme exhaustion	Very common in early illness	Extremely rare	Rare	
Stuffy or runny nose	Sometimes	Common	Common, early in disease	
Sneezing	Sometimes	Common	Common, early in disease	
Sore throat	Sometimes	Common	Uncommon	
Cough	Type	Non-productive ("dry") cough is typical; nighttime cough rare	Hacking cough, often productive; nighttime cough rare; usually responds to cough medications	Variable; fits and attacks and nighttime cough are common; characteristic high-pitched "whoop" sound, 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 more than 1 week, usually 2-6 weeks, sometimes more than 10 weeks
	Cough attacks/fits	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 increased mucus production (before cough begins) to 21 days after cough starts*	

*or until taking five days of appropriate anti-pertussis antibiotics.

