

Table: Characteristics of common respiratory infections

DISEASE and CAUSE	SEASON and TRANSMISSION	COMMON SYMPTOMS	UNLIKELY SYMPTOMS*
COMMON COLD – RHINITIS; rhinoviruses, coronaviruses, RSV and other viruses	Late August to April, also in summer; droplet**, human-to-human	Blocked nose with watery to thick green discharge, wet eyes, itchy throat, dry cough, (sometimes low-grade fever or headache); lasts 1 week	Body aches, rash, enlarged nodes***
ACUTE SINUSITIS; various viruses, bacteria, fungi (also pollutants or allergy)	Winter; complication of existing viral disease; sinusitis as a disease is not contagious	Pressure and tenderness in cheeks and/or front, headache, blocked nose, thick green mucus (thin mucus in allergy), post-nasal drip, or swollen eyelids; lasts less than 4 weeks	Body aches, swollen nodes, rash
SEASONAL FLU; Influenza A or B virus	November- April, occasionally in summer (in travelers) (1); droplet, human-to-human	Body aches, headache, tiredness, blocked, runny nose, sore throat, dry cough, high fever (101-105°F =38-40.5°C, rarely no fever at all), lasts 1-2 weeks	Swollen nodes, rash (in severe flu), pneumonia (in small children, old, chronic patients)
STREP THROAT; bacterium Streptococcus pyogenes	Late autumn to early spring, but may be year-round; droplet, human to human	Sore throat, difficult swallowing, swollen, reddened tonsils, cough, enlarged nodes behind the ears and in neck, high fever, headache, mostly children 5-15 y/o; lasts up to one week	Body aches
CROUP; parainfluenza virus, RSV	Year-round, droplet, human to human	Barking cough, hoarsness, continues with runny nose, in children, lasts about a week	Body aches, rash

For a more complete list of common respiratory infections please visit, <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/revb/respiratory/hpivfeat.htm>