


Cold vs. Flu vs. Stomach Bug

- Not sure? Here is a great graphic to help families understand the differences.



Is it a cold, the flu or a stomach bug?

SYMPTOMS	COLD	FLU	STOMACH BUG
Symptom Onset	Gradual	Abrupt	Abrupt
Fever	Rare	Usual; lasts 3-4 days	Common
Aches	Slight	Usual; often severe	Common; cramps & stomach ache
Chills	Uncommon	Fairly Common	Common
Fatigue/Weakness	Sometimes	Usual	Common
Sneezing	Common	Sometimes	None
Chest Discomfort/ Cough	Mild to Moderate: hacking cough	Common; can be severe	None
Stuffy Nose	Common	Sometimes	None
Sore Throat	Common	Sometimes	None
Headache	Rare	Common	Common

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention