

Comparing coronavirus and the flu

COVID-19



Caused by one virus now called severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2, or SARS-CoV-2.

INFLUENZA



Caused by any of several different types and strains of influenza viruses.



Both can be spread from people through droplets in the air from coughing, sneezing or talking. One possible difference: COVID-19 might be spread through the airborne route – tiny droplets remaining in the air can spread the disease even after the ill person is no longer near.

+ VACCINE +

No vaccine is available at this time, though it is in progress.

A vaccine is available to prevent dangerous types or reduce severity.

INFECTIONS

As of March 11, 2020
(estimates)

1,039
in U.S.

121,000
worldwide

Per year (estimates)

Up to
45 million
in U.S.

1 billion
worldwide

DEATHS

29
in U.S.

4,368
worldwide

Up to
61,000
in U.S.

Up to
646,000
worldwide