COMMON COLD / INFLUENZA

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WHAT IS THE COMMON COLD?

- The common cold is a viral infection of your nose and throat (upper respiratory tract). It's usually harmless, although it might not feel that way. Many types of viruses can cause a common cold.
- Children younger than 6 are at greatest risk of colds, but healthy adults can also expect to have two or three colds annually.
- Most people recover from a common cold in a week or 10 days. Symptoms might last longer in people who smoke. If symptoms don't improve, see your doctor.

Where did it come from?

The history of the common cold is a tricky one. The cause of the common cold was discovered in the 1950s but the disease was with us for a long time.

In Egypt. There was a disease with the symptoms similar to the common cold written on Egyptian Ebers papyrus.

The reason it's called the common cold is because how similar the disease symptoms are to people being exposed to cold weather.



WHAT IS INFLUENZA?

Influenza is a viral infection that attacks your respiratory system — your nose, throat and lungs. Influenza is commonly called the flu, but it's not the same as stomach "flu" viruses that cause diarrhea and vomiting.

For most people, the flu resolves on its own. But sometimes, influenza and its complications can be deadly. People at higher risk of developing flu complications include:

- Young children under age 5, and especially those under 6 months
- Adults older than age 65
- Residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities
- Pregnant women and women up to two weeks after giving birth
- People with weakened immune systems
 - People who have chronic illnesses, such as asthma, heart disease, kidney disease, liver disease and diabetes
- People who are very obese, with a body mass index (BMI) of 40 or higher



Human influenza A viruses start as avian (bird) influenza viruses





Different Types of Flu

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Seasonal Flu



Influenza C



Influenza D



Flu Pandemic



H1N1 Swine Flu



H5N1 Bird Flu





Influenza A



Cold Symptoms vs. Flu Symptoms



Colds and flu treatments







Plenty of water



Eat a healthy diet



Paracetamol or ibuprofen for fever, aches and pains



Throat lozenges for a sore throat



Avoid cigarette smoke







Steam inhalation



Saline nasal sprays or decongestants for a blocked or runny nose



Do not use cough medicines for children younger than 6 years old













HELP PROTECT FROM COLD & FLU

CONSIDER GETTING A Flu shot WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN WITH SOAP AND WATER FOR At least 20 seconds or use Alcohol-based hand rub

AVOID TOUCHING YOUR EYES, Nose or mouth. Germs Spread this way.



THANKS!

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Do you have any questions? jorn@gcfsmcs.ph.ed

