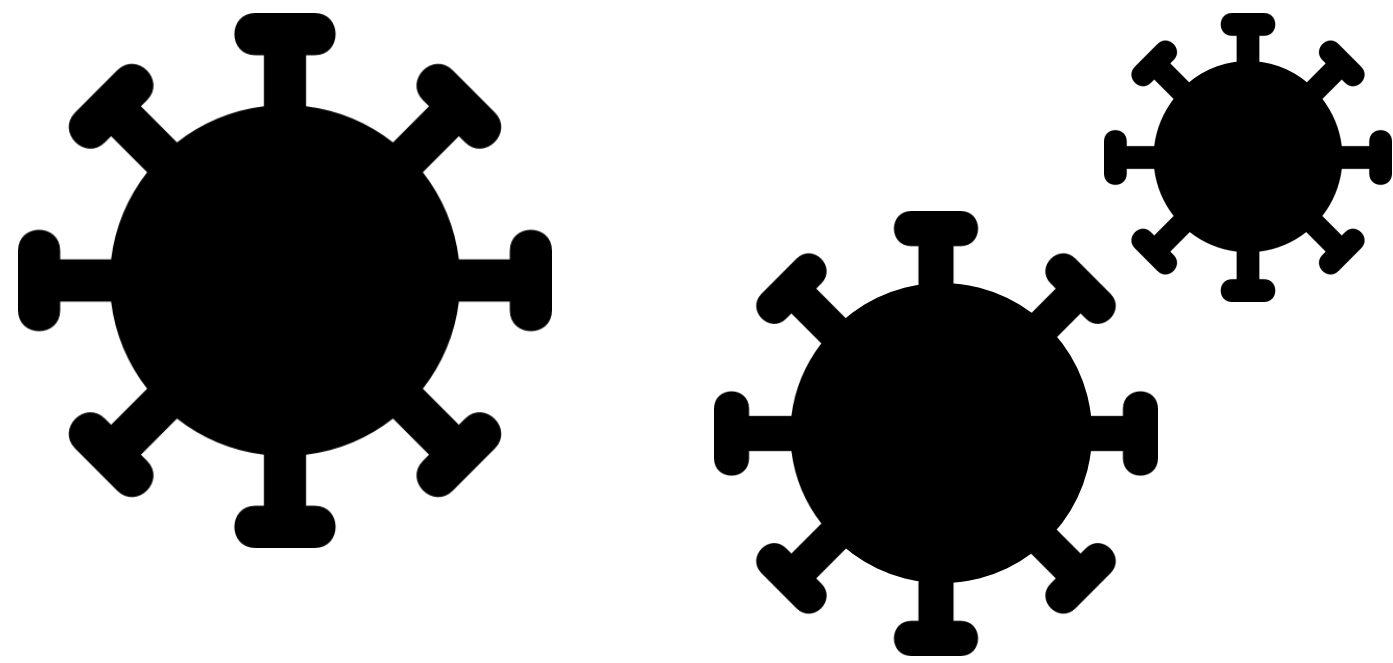
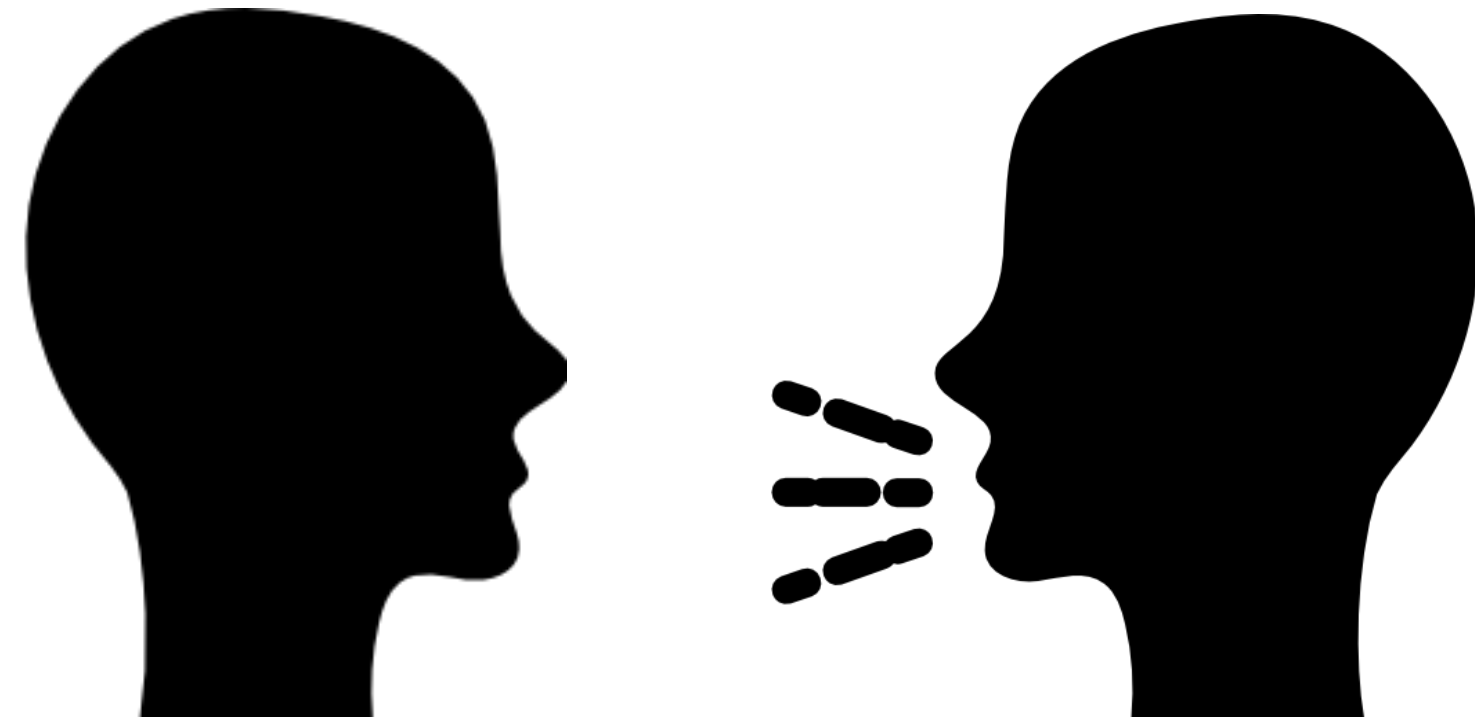


Influenza (Flu)

Fact Sheet



Influenza, commonly called "the flu," is caused by the influenza virus, and infects the nose, throat, and lungs. The flu causes severe illness and life-threatening complications in many people.

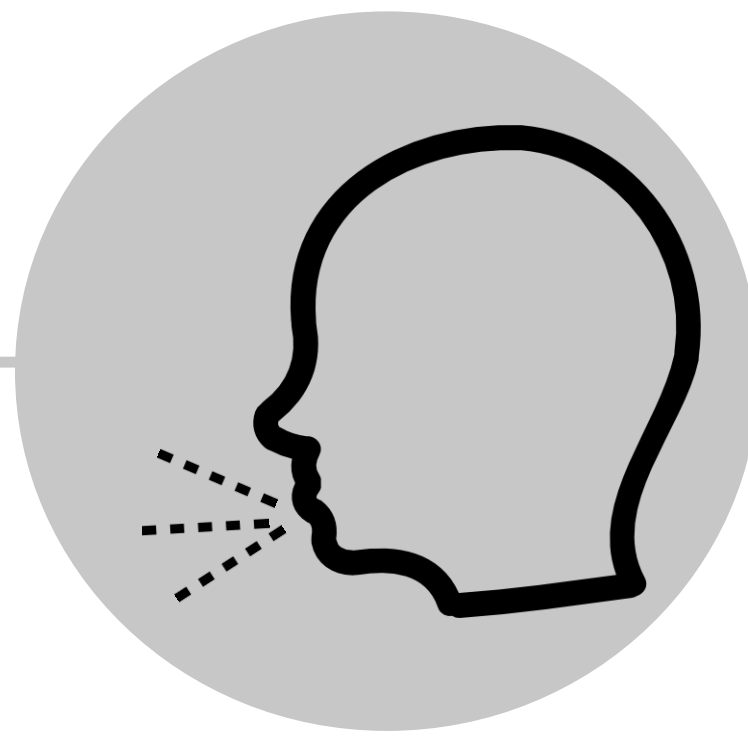


The flu spreads from person-to-person, usually by coughing or sneezing. It is possible to get the flu from touching a surface that has the flu virus on it, and then touching your mouth or nose.

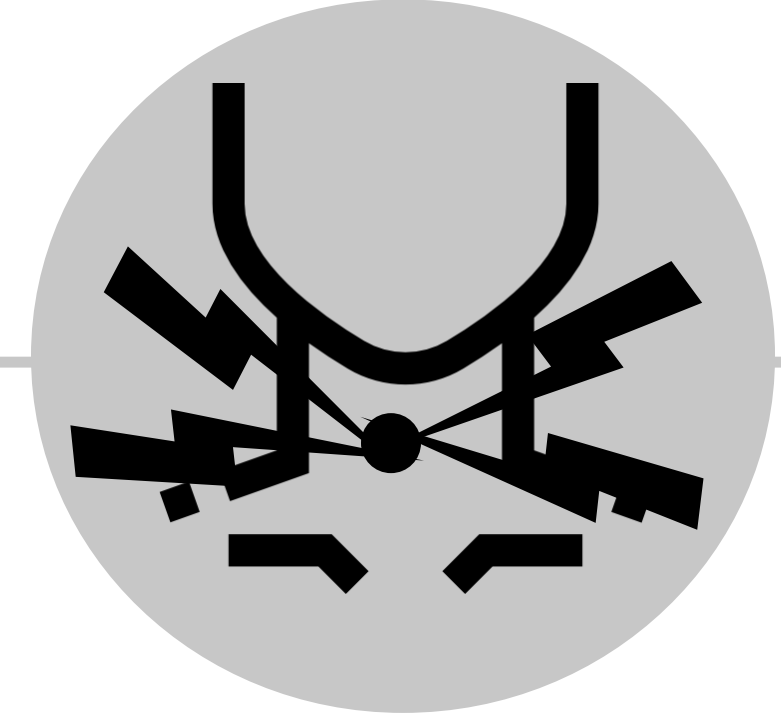
Common Signs and Symptoms



Fever



Dry Cough



Sore Throat



Headache

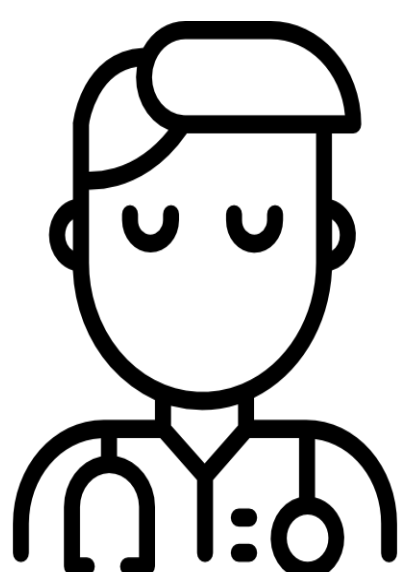


Muscle Aches and Pains



Feeling Very Tired

Signs and symptoms of the flu include fever, dry cough, sore throat, headache, muscle aches and pains, runny or stuffy nose, and feeling very tired. Children can have additional symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. Signs and symptoms usually begin one to four days after exposure, with an average of two days.



Talk to your doctor if you think you have the flu. Antiviral drugs may be a treatment option and work best when they are started within two days of getting sick.

Preventing the Flu

Maine CDC recommends the "No Flu 4 You" approach:



Get a yearly flu vaccine



Wash your hands with soap and water



Stay home when you are sick



Cover your cough

1. Get the Flu Vaccine Every Year

- This is the single best way to prevent the flu.
- You are protected against the flu about two weeks after getting the vaccine.
- There are many strains of flu viruses and they change each year. This is why it is important to get the flu vaccine each year.

2. Wash Your Hands

- Flu viruses can live on hard surfaces for between two to eight hours.

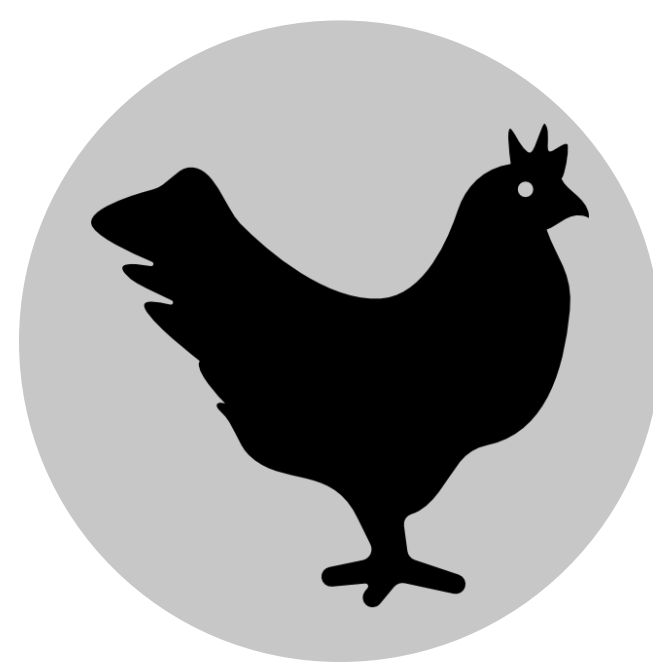
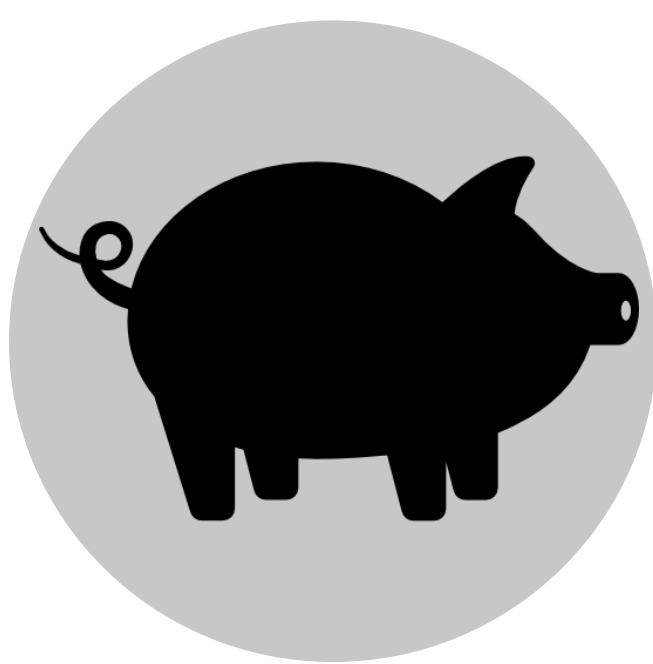
3. Stay Home When You Are Sick

- The flu is very contagious.
- Most healthy adults can make others sick from one day before to five days after they have symptoms.

4. Cover Your Cough

- When a person with the flu coughs or sneezes, the droplets can travel up to three feet and land on the mouth or nose of others.

Novel Flu



- Novel flu refers to strains of the flu that are different from human seasonal flu viruses.
- Novel flu viruses do not normally infect humans, but sporadic human infections can occur.
- Novel flu spreads from animals to humans. Most cases of novel flu occur from contact with pigs or birds.
- In general, symptoms of novel flu are similar to seasonal flu.

For More Information, Visit:



1. www.maine flu.gov
2. www.cdc.gov/flu

You can also call Maine CDC at 1-800-821-5821.