

Covid-19 & Flu

COVID and the flu are not the same thing. They are both respiratory illnesses, but they are caused by completely different viruses. Because the symptoms of the flu and COVID are similar on some points, it can be difficult to tell them apart. The Flu begins with a sudden headache, dry cough, sore throat, sneezing, runny nose, aching muscles, and extreme fatigue. Additional symptoms of Covid-19 include loss of taste or smell, nausea or vomiting and diarrhea. Good hand washing and wearing a face covering will help prevent the spread of both Covid-19 and flu germs. Remember, if you have a cold or the flu, antibiotics will not work for you. A yearly flu shot is the best way to protect against the flu and will help in preventing illness during the Covid-19 Pandemic. Others with chronic respiratory conditions should be vaccinated against pneumococcal pneumonia. If you need assistance obtaining a flu shot, contact the Regional Center @ **213.383.1300**.

Here are some things to consider during cold and flu season:

1. Both Staff and Clients should get a flu shot during the months of September – January. Remember, the earlier the better.
2. Make sure to wash hands frequently using soap and warm water.
3. Wear a face covering and cover your mouth or nose when you cough or sneeze to protect others.
4. Have tissues handy and be sure to throw used tissues in the waste basket.
5. Eat balanced meals, drink lots of fluids, excluding sodas and other drinks high in sugar.
6. Get plenty of rest and stay home from work or school if you are sick.
7. Ask your doctor about the pneumonia vaccine if you have chronic respiratory condition and have not already been vaccinated.
8. Contact your doctor if you have other ongoing medical conditions or prolonged symptoms or fever.

There are many over the counter (OTC) medications to treat cold or flu symptoms. Always consult a doctor before considering OTC medication for a child under 2 years old or someone with an existing medical condition. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), children or teenagers who may have the flu should **NOT** be given aspirin or medicines that contain aspirin.

For More Information about Colds and Flu:

Center for Disease Control and Prevention Get Smart: Know When Antibiotics Work
<https://www.cdc.gov/grand-rounds/pp/2013/20131119-antibiotic-resistance.html>
 Center for Disease Control and Prevention Get Smart Program: More Info about Flu
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu>
 County of Los Angeles, Public Health: It's Not Flu as Usual.
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/chs/phcenters.htm>

KEY POINTS:

1. Wash hands often and well
2. Get your flu shot early
3. Wear face covering

