

Seasonal Flu vs. Pandemic Flu: What's the difference?

Seasonal Flu	Pandemic Flu
<p>Seasonal flu is caused by influenza viruses that are similar to those already affecting people. Flu shots are available to protect against seasonal flu.</p>	<p>Pandemic flu is caused by a new influenza virus that people have not been exposed to before. Flu shots might not be available during the beginning of the pandemic because large amounts of vaccine cannot be made until experts know what the new virus looks like.</p>
<p>Symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, headache and muscle pain.</p>	<p>Symptoms will be similar to the regular flu, but may be more severe and complications could be more serious.</p>
<p>Healthy adults are usually not at risk for serious complications. The very young, the elderly and people with serious health conditions are at increased risk for serious complications, such as pneumonia or even death.</p>	<p>Healthy adults may face a higher risk for serious complications.</p>
<p>The more common flu that spreads each winter generally causes a modest impact on society, for example, some schools are closed and sick people are encouraged to stay home.</p>	<p>A severe pandemic could change daily life for some time. People may choose to stay home or be forced to stay home if they are sick or need to care for others. Travel and public gatherings could be limited. Basic services and access to supplies could be disrupted.</p>
<p>The average number of deaths from seasonal flu in the U.S. is approximately 36,000 per year.</p>	<p>In a pandemic, the number of deaths could be much higher. During the 1918 pandemic, deaths in the U.S. totaled 675,000.</p>



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