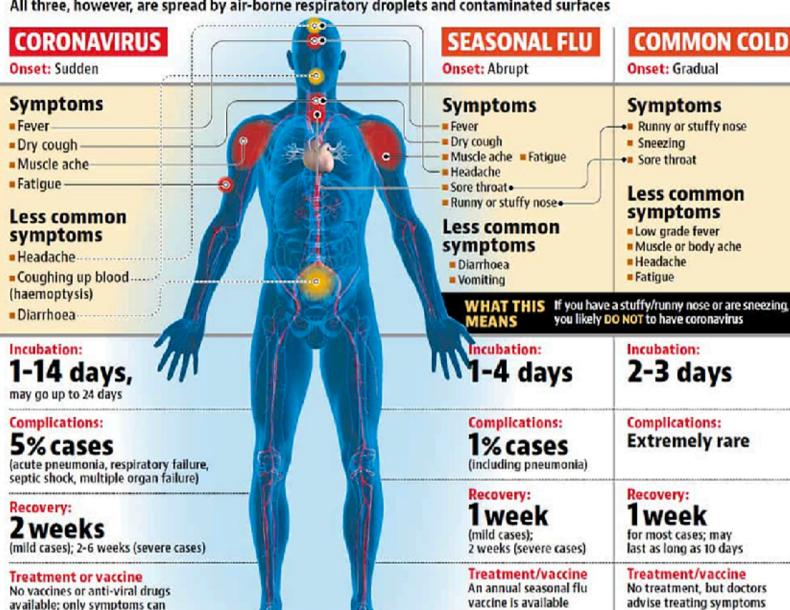
CORONAVIRUS, FLU, COLD?

As the number of coronavirus cases rise, some key differences set coronavirus apart from the seasonal flu and the common cold - mainly the intensity of the symptoms and the recovery period. A guide at identifying the differences in the three conditions

All three, however, are spread by air-borne respiratory droplets and contaminated surfaces



SEVEN KINDS OF CORONA

Seven strains of coronavirus (CoV) that infect humans have been identified. These cause Illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV)

be treated

Harmless

- Serotype 229E
- Serotype OC43
- Serotype NL63
- Serotype HUK1

These cause symptoms of the common cold, and rarely cause severe pneumonia

Dangerous

These are known to cause more severe disease. These are:

- 1. Sars-CoV which causes severe acute respiratory syndrome (Sars)
- 2. Mers-CoV was that causes Middle East respiratory syndrome (Mers)
- 3. Sars-CoV2 that causes coronavirus disease (Covid-19)

The unknowns of Sars-CoV2

Sars-CoV2 is closely related (with 88% identity) to two bat-derived Sars-like coronaviruses (bat-SL-CoV-ZC45 and bat-SL-CoVZXC21) collected in 2018 in Zhoushan. eastern China

It has 79% genetic affinity with Sars-CoV: 50% with Mers-CoV The Sars-CoV2 recentor-binding domain structure, which allows a virus to latch on to and enter a cell, is similar to Sars-CoV, despite amino acid variation at some key residues.

Little is known about Sars-CoV2. studies on Sars-CoV provide clues to its behaviour and ability to infect

On smooth surfaces such as tables, phones etc, Sars-CoV retains its viability for 5 days at 22-25°C and relative humidity of 40-50%, which is typical for air-conditioned rooms. Though this may vary for Sars-CoV2, experts say this is a good indicator for its behaviour