Flu and COVID-19 - The Key Differences

**FLU**

**Symptoms Begin:**
1 to 4 days after infection.

**Complications:**
Can occur, but are less likely because of immunity built up over time.

**Hallmark Symptoms:**
Fever, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, sore throat, runny nose, headache, and body aches.

**Spread:**
Both flu and COVID-19 can spread from person-to-person, between people who are in close contact with one another and mainly by air droplets.

**COVID-19**

**Symptoms Begin:**
As early as 2 days after infection or as late as 14.

**Complications:**
COVID-19 is a new virus, so most people have no immunity. Severe respiratory complication may come on extremely quickly.

**Hallmark Symptoms:**
Many symptoms are similar to the flu, however those infected with COVID-19 sometimes experience loss of taste or smell.

**Spread:**
COVID-19 is more contagious among certain people and age groups than flu. Also, the virus can spread more quickly and easily than the flu, resulting in continuous spread, also called superspread.

[coronavirus.ohio.gov]