### Decision assistant

#### Protecting your health and the health of others

The flu is a respiratory infection that is spread easily. It is caused by the influenza virus. In Québec, it mostly spreads during the end of the fall to the beginning of the spring. Flu symptoms, which appear suddenly, and their severity, can vary depending on age and health condition.

The main symptoms are the following:
- Sudden fever between 39 °C and 40 °C (102 °F and 104 °F)
- Sudden cough
- Sore throat
- Muscle or joint pain
- Extreme fatigue
- Headache

Symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and abdominal pain may also be experienced. These symptoms are most common in children.

The Flu is often confused with other respiratory infections such as the cold.

Certain protection and cleanliness measures can also help prevent transmission of the flu:
- Wash your hands often
- Keep your immediate environment clean, such as furniture surfaces and counters
- Cough or sneeze into the bend of your elbow

#### IF YOU HAVE FLU SYMPTOMS, the following table will help you decide what is best for you and your family

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADULTS OR CHILDREN</th>
<th>DECISION</th>
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</table>
| I don’t have a fever (less than 39 °C or 102 °F), but I do have the following symptoms:  
  - Blocked nose  
  - Runny nose  
  - Cough | I probably have a cold and need to rest. |

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| I have a sudden fever (higher than 39 °C or 102 °F) as well as the following symptoms:  
  - Sudden cough  
  - Sore throat  
  - Muscle or joint pain  
  - Extreme fatigue  
  - Headache | I probably have the flu.  
  I can treat myself at home.  
  I can get information at Québec.ca.  
  If need be, I can call Info-Santé 811. |

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| I have flu symptoms and belong to the category of individuals at risk for complications (babies younger than 6 months old, people aged 75 and over, healthy pregnant women in the 2nd and 3rd trimesters of their pregnancy, people with chronic disease). | I need to call Info-Santé 811.  
  A nurse will assess my condition and recommend steps to be taken, depending on my condition. |

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| I have flu symptoms and one of the following applies to me:  
  - Increasing or persistent pain when I breathe  
  - A rising fever or one that has lasted for more than 5 days  
  - Symptoms that deteriorate or do not improve after 7 days | I must see a doctor today. |

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| I have one or more of the following apply to me:  
  - Breathing difficulty that persists or worsens  
  - Blue lips  
  - Intense chest pain  
  - Intense headache that persists or worsens  
  - Drowsiness, difficulty staying awake, weakness  
  - Confusion, disorientation  
  - Seizures (body stiffens and muscles contract in a jerky and involuntary manner)  
  - No urination for 12 hours, excessive thirst  
  - Fever in a child who appears very sick, lacks energy and refuses to play  
  - Fever in a baby less than 3 months old | I must go to the emergency department of a hospital immediately.  
  If I require assistance, call 9-1-1. |
### IF YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS OF GASTROENTERITIS,
the following table will help you decide what is best for you and your family.
If it is traveller’s diarrhea, contact Info-Santé 811.

#### ADULTS OR CHILDREN

**I have diarrhea but no other symptoms associated with gastroenteritis,**
and my general state of health is good.

**ADULTS OR CHILDREN**

I have had diarrhea:
- at least 3 liquid or semi-liquid stools every 24 hours
- or stool that is more abundant and frequent than usual:
  - Abdominal cramps
  - Nausea
  - Vomiting
  - Mild fever (in some cases)

#### ADULTS OR CHILDREN AT RISK FOR COMPLICATIONS

I have symptoms of gastroenteritis and belong to a category of people at risk for complications (children under 2 years of age, adults 65 and over, pregnant women, persons suffering from a chronic disease).

**ADULTS OR CHILDREN**

- I have had diarrhea for more than 48 hours, with no improvement.
- I have diarrhea and fever (over 38°C or 100.4°F) for over 48 hours.
- I have been vomiting for 48 hours, with no improvement.
- I have had diarrhea for more than 1 week.

**ADULTS OR CHILDREN**

- I have a lot of bloody or black stools.
- I have diarrhea with intense abdominal pain.
- I have diarrhea; extreme thirst, have not urinated in 12 hours.
- I have been vomiting frequently, and it does not slow down after 4 to 6 hours.
- My vomit contains blood or stool (red in colour or ground coffee-like).
- My general health is deteriorating (weakness, drowsiness, irritability, confusion).

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