

## Understanding the Similarities and Differences Between Seasonal, Avian, and Pandemic Influenza

	Seasonal	Avian	Pandemic
Infectious Agent	Influenza viruses that are similar to those already infecting people.	Only influenza A viruses infect birds.	Influenza A viruses to which people have not had previous exposure.
Protection	Immunity from previous infection to similar viruses and yearly influenza vaccination.	No Immunity in humans and no vaccine available.	No immunity in humans and limited vaccine with limited effectiveness.
Susceptible Populations	Everyone is susceptible to influenza. Serious complications from infection are seen in the very young, the elderly, and those with certain underlying health conditions.	Wild birds become infected, but do not get sick. Domestic poultry become infected through contact with infected waterfowl. Human infection is uncommon but may occur in those with close contact with birds or surfaces contaminated with bird secretions/excretions (i.e. slaughter, handling of dead birds, contact with bird feces)	Everyone is susceptible. Healthy adults may be at an increased risk for serious complications.
Symptoms	Fever, cough, runny nose, and muscle pain. Deaths caused in susceptible populations by complications such as pneumonia.	In birds, symptoms dependent upon virus characteristic. "Low pathogenic" forms cause less severe symptoms than "High pathogenic" forms. Normally, humans are at low risk for infection. If infected, symptoms range from typical human-like flu symptoms to serious complications depending on the form of virus.	Symptoms similar to seasonal flu may be more severe and complications more serious.
Societal Impact	Generally causes modest impact (some school closings, missed work, etc.)	Can have a major impact on agricultural economy. Also can effect travel and tourism to countries affected.	A severe pandemic could change the patterns of daily life. People may choose to stay home to keep away from those who are sick or to take care of ill family members. Travel and public gatherings could be limited. Basic services and supplies could be disrupted.