

Flurona: How likely are you to get both COVID and the flu simultaneously?

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, public health experts have worried about people getting infected with the influenza virus and SARS-CoV-2 at the same time, a disease sometimes called flurona. Now, a multi-year study of hospital patients offers some of the most comprehensive data on how frequent flurona cases are—and who seems to be getting them the most.

The study, which is [not yet peer reviewed](#), shows that flurona cases have been happening throughout the pandemic but are so far relatively rare.

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However, experts stress that flurona is not at all likely to lead to genetic exchanges between viruses and cause more severe hybrid forms of either the flu or COVID-19. "While it's possible, in theory, for such gene swaps to occur, the chances of this occurring are very, very low and would almost certainly result in a non-viable virus," says Stephen Goldstein, an evolutionary virologist at Eccles Institute of Human Genetics at the University of Utah.

Study co-author Andrew Badley, an infectious disease physician-scientist at the Mayo Clinic, Minnesota, adds that "the main take-home message of [our study] is that co-infections do occur, and therefore we have to take that concept seriously."

[This is an excerpt. Read the original post here.](#)