

### **Supplementary materials**

This supplementary material has been provided by the authors to give readers additional information about their work.

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## Symptoms

- Runny or dripping nose
- Nose congested or stuffy
- Sneezing
- Sinus pressure
- Scratchy or itchy throat
- Sore or painful throat
- Difficulty swallowing
- Teary or watery eyes
- Sore or painful eyes
- Eyes sensitive to light
- Trouble breathing
- Chest congestion
- Chest tightness
- Dry or hacking cough
- Wet or loose cough
- Coughing
- Coughed up mucus or phlegm
- Felt nauseous (feeling like you wanted to throw-up)
- Stomach ache
- Vomit
- Diarrhea
- Felt dizzy
- Head congestion
- Headache
- Lack of appetite
- Sleeping more than usual
- Body aches or pains
- Weak or tired
- Chills or shivering
- Felt cold
- Felt hot
- Sweating

**Probable Covid-19 definition**

At least two of the following symptoms:

- feeling cold (fever)
- chills or shivering
- body aches or pains
- headache,
- sore or painful throat,
- nausea or vomiting,
- diarrhea,
- weak or tired,
- runny or dripping nose or nose congested or stuffy

**OR**

Any one of the following symptoms:

- coughing or coughing up mucous or phlegm,
- chest congestion,
- trouble breathing,

### Comments about ability to “make ends meet” or afford necessities

A total of 189 (189/392, 48 %) participants commented on their ability to make ends meet.

Table. Numbers of comments provided by group of allocation and reported ability to make ends meet.

	Cash transfer	Information only	Total
Yes, can make ends meet	56/96 (58%)	46/88 (52%)	184/392 (47 %)
No, cannot make ends meet	40/88 (45%)	47/84 (56%)	172/392 (44%)
Total	96/184 (52%)	93/172 (54%)	356/392 (91%)

Many, 23/102 (23%), of the comments from participants who indicated they could make ends meet indicated that they could only “barely” do so or were “just scraping by”, and another 19/102 (19%) indicated they could make ends meet but it was difficult to do so. Some stated they were able to make ends meet because of government financial assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Others reported dipping into savings to buy essentials. Some had lower expenses due to daycare closures.

Among those who reported not being able to make ends meet, comments often referenced job loss or reduced work hours due to COVID-19 or needing to stay home from work with children due to COVID-19 as the cause, though some mentioned that they were never able to make ends meet due to low income and high costs of living. Some reported increased expenses due to COVID-19 such as increased prices of food and household items, buying more food to feed children at home, using taxis or ride-sharing rather than taking public transit and having to buy masks and sanitizer. Some reported not being able to afford rent or groceries, or incurring credit card debt to pay bills.

Some (11/96, 11%) participants in the cash transfer group who provided comments stated that they were able to make ends meet because of the money they received from the study.