

Keeping your Lungs in Tip Top Shape

Lie on your back on a flat surface or in bed, with your knees bent and your head supported. You can use a pillow under your knees to support your legs. Place one hand on your upper chest and the other just below your rib cage. This will allow you to feel your diaphragm as you breathe



Breathe in slowly through your nose so that your stomach moves out against your hand. The hand on your chest should remain as still as possible.



Tighten your stomach muscles, letting them fall inward as you exhale through pursed lips. The hand on your upper chest must remain as still as possible.



According to the Cleveland Clinic, pursed lip breathing has a range of benefits:

1. It's been shown to reduce how hard a person has to work to breathe.
2. It helps release air trapped in the lungs.
3. It promotes relaxation.
4. It reduces shortness of breath.

Practicing this technique 4 to 5 times daily can help. Here's how to practice pursed lip breathing:

- While keeping your mouth closed, take a deep breath in through your nose, counting to 2. Follow this pattern by repeating in your head "inhale, 1, 2." The breath does not have to be deep. A typical inhale will do.
- Put your lips together as if you are starting to whistle or blow out candles on a birthday cake. This is known as "pursing" your lips.
- While continuing to keep your lips pursed, slowly breathe out by counting to Don't try to force the air out, but instead breathe out slowly through your mouth.

Coping with a Disaster or Traumatic Event



After a disaster, it is important to take care of your emotional health. Pay attention to how you and your family members are feeling and acting.

Taking care of your emotional health will help you think clearly and react to urgent needs to protect yourself and your loved ones.

Follow these tips to help you and your family recover or find support.

Steps to Care for Yourself

- Take Care of Your Body
 - » Try to eat healthy, exercise regularly, get plenty of sleep, and avoid alcohol and other drugs.
- Connect
 - » Share your feelings with a friend or family member. Maintain relationships and rely on your support system.
- Take Breaks
 - » Make time to unwind. Try to return to activities that you enjoy.
- Stay Informed
 - » Watch for news updates from reliable officials.
- Avoid
 - » Avoid excessive exposure to media coverage of the event.
- Ask for Help
 - » Talk to a clergy member, counselor, or doctor or contact the SAMHSA helpline helpline at 1-800-985-5990 or text TalkWithUs to 66746.

How to Help Your Children

- Talk with them.
 - » Share age-appropriate information.
 - » Reassure them.
 - » Address rumors.
 - » Answer questions.
- Set a good example by taking care of yourself.
- Limit exposure to media and social media coverage of the event.

Common Signs of Distress

- Feelings of shock, numbness, or disbelief
- Change in energy or activity levels
- Difficulty concentrating
- Changes in appetite
- Sleeping problems or nightmares
- Feeling anxious, fearful, or angry
- Headaches, body pain, or skin rashes
- Chronic health problems get worse
- Increased use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs

Seek help from your healthcare provider if these stress reactions interfere with your daily activities for several days in a row.

Employee Assistance Program

Always by your side

- Expert support 24/7
- Convenient website
- Short-term help
- Referrals for additional care
- Monthly webinars
- Medical Bill Saver™
 - helps you save on medical bills



Who is covered?

Unum's EAP services are available to all eligible employees, their spouses or domestic partners, dependent children, parents and parents-in-law.



Employee Assistance Program — Work/Life Balance

Toll-free 24/7 access:

- 1-800-854-1446 (multilingual)
- www.unum.com/lifebalance



Turn to us, when you don't know where to turn.

Here are current answers to frequently asked questions about physical activity or exercise and COVID-19:

I'm under quarantine but not infected. Should I limit my physical activity?

There are no recommendations at this time to limit physical activity if you do not have any symptoms. Contact your health care provider if you develop a cough, fever or shortness of breath.

Will exercise help prevent me from getting the virus?

Moderate-intensity physical activity can boost your immune system. However high-intensity high-volume training may suppress immune function especially if you are unaccustomed to it. Balance your workout program.

What if my kids are home with me?

Being active with kids is the most fun of all! Find activities that you can do together – an active gaming video, basketball in the driveway, go for a walk in the neighborhood.

Based on what we know about how the virus moves from one person to another, it is recommended to avoid public gatherings and keep a social distance of 6 feet or more. That, along with advice related to personal care (hand washing, not touching your face) has created concern about exercising in gyms, where hundreds of people are in and out every day.

Those at greatest risk for severe complications of COVID-19 are:

- older adults (age 65 and older)
- people with chronic diseases (such as diabetes, heart disease and lung disease)
- those with compromised immune systems (such as those going through cancer treatment or with HIV)

These individuals (and those under "shelter in place" orders) should avoid gyms altogether and exercise at home or in their neighborhood.

Are there precautions I should take?

The most important strategy to prevent infection is to avoid coming into contact with others who are infected with COVID-19.

What if I start to have symptoms?

If you begin to have symptoms, follow CDC recommendations. As these recommendations are changing, below is a link to the CDC Symptoms webpage: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/symptoms.html>

I'm under quarantine and infected. Should I limit my physical activity?

People who are infected, but without symptoms, can continue moderate-intensity activity, but need to use symptoms as a guide. Maintain quarantine to prevent spreading the coronavirus to others. If you develop fever, cough or shortness of breath, stop physical activity and reach out to your doctor



Stay positive. Stay active. **Be smart and safe.**



Aerobic Activities

Indoor Activities

- Put some music on and walk briskly around the house or up and down the stairs for 10-15 minutes, 2-3 times per day.
- Dance to your favorite music.
- Jump rope (if your joints can handle it).
- Do an exercise video.
- Use home cardio machines if you have them.



Strength Training

- Download a strength workout app to your smart phone, such as the 7-Minute Workout (no equipment necessary).
- Do a strength training video.
- Perform yoga – deep breathing and mindfulness can also reduce anxiety.

Outdoor Activities (if allowed by your government)

- Walk or jog around your neighborhood. **Stay 6 feet away from others.**
- Be active in a local park. Spending time in nature may enhance immune function. Wash your hands when you get home.
- Go for a bicycle ride.
- Do gardening and lawn work (Spring is around the corner!).
- Play active games with your family.

- Find ways to do simple muscle strengthening exercises around your house such as:
 - Squats or sit-to-stands from a sturdy chair
 - Push-ups against a wall, the kitchen counter or the floor
 - Lunges or single leg step-ups on stairs

