

Live Well, Work Well



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Health and Wellness Tips for Your Work and Life



5 Things You Can Do to Improve Your Daily Mental Health

Mental health plays a huge role in your overall health and well-being. It affects everything, including how we think, feel and act, and helps determine how we make healthy choices and cope with stress.

Because it's such a crucial component of your health, it's important to focus on maintaining or improving your mental health. Here are five simple ways to do so every day:

- 1. Express gratitude.** Taking five minutes a day to write down the things that you are grateful for has been proven to lower stress levels and can help you change your mindset from negative to positive.
- 2. Get exercise.** You probably hear all the time how beneficial exercise is to your overall health, but it's true. Exercising regularly can benefit your brain function, reduce anxiety and improve your self-image.
- 3. Spend time outdoors.** Getting outside, especially when it's sunny, can greatly improve your mood, which in turn, benefits your mental health.
- 4. Be kind.** Helping others and being kind not only helps the receiver of the act, but can also help you. It doesn't have to be anything crazy—holding the door or giving a compliment can go a long way.
- 5. Get a good night's sleep.** Fatigued individuals typically experience drowsiness, mood changes, loss of energy and appetite, headaches, and a lack of motivation, concentration and alertness. Strive for seven to eight hours of sleep a night to improve your mental health.

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Your solution for a healthier workforce.

Cheesy Broccoli and Rice Squares

1 cup low-fat shredded cheddar
1 cup broccoli (chopped)
3 cups brown rice (cooked)
½ cup fresh parsley (chopped)
¼ cup onion (chopped)
½ tsp. salt
3 eggs (beaten)
1 ½ cups evaporated milk
1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
Nonstick cooking spray

Preparations

1. Heat oven to 350 F and coat a 9-by-9-inch baking pan with nonstick cooking spray.
2. In a bowl, combine the brown rice, cheese, onion, broccoli, parsley and salt.
3. In a separate bowl, combine the eggs, Worcestershire sauce and evaporated milk. Pour over rice mixture. Mix well.
4. Pour into the baking dish.
5. Bake until just firm, about 35 to 40 minutes. Cut into squares to serve.

Nutritional Information (per serving – makes 8)

Total Calories	183
Total Fat	4 g
Protein	12 g
Carbohydrates	24 g
Dietary Fiber	2 g
Saturated Fat	2 g
Sodium	328 mg
Total Sugars	6 g

Source: USDA



Eye Health 101

Keeping your eyes healthy is a very important task. Fortunately, it's also an easy thing to do. Here are five simple ways you can keep your eyes healthy:

1. Get a regular exam. Complete eye exams consist of a series of tests designed to evaluate your vision and check for eye diseases.
2. Wear protective eyewear. When you're playing sports or doing a task that requires eyewear to be worn, heed the advice and wear glasses or goggles to prevent injury to your eyes.
3. Don't smoke. Smoking can contribute to a host of irreversible eye diseases, so quit or refrain from smoking to protect your eyes.
4. Put your shades on. Wearing sunglasses protects your eyes from the sun's harmful rays. Don't forget to put them on when you're outside!
5. Give your eyes a break. Staring at a computer screen for too long can cause a painful strain on your eyes. Whenever possible, try giving yourself a short break from looking at the screen.

Foods to Boost Eye Health



1. Salmon



2. Red bell peppers



3. Dark, leafy greens



4. Lean meat and poultry



5. Sweet potatoes



6. Eggs



7. Squash



8. Broccoli



9. Brussels sprouts



10. Sunflower seeds

Incorporate Yoga into Your Exercise Plan

Yoga is an ancient Sanskrit word meaning “to join” or “to unite” in practice. Yoga will help you become more aware of your body's patterns of movement, posture and alignment, thereby increasing your flexibility and fitness level. Not only that, but yoga is also often used as a stress management and relaxation technique.

The practice of yoga involves performing a variety of poses, called asanas, along with breathing exercises and meditation to cleanse and unify your body, mind and spirit. These combined actions increase blood circulation, which can stimulate the body to “flush out” toxins. Regular practice of the stretches, twists, bends and inversions have many physical and mental health benefits. A simple online search of *yoga poses* provides numerous, cost-free options to learn basic poses and build your yoga practice.