Live Well, Stress Less

Stress is your body’s way of responding to a challenging situation. You can’t entirely avoid stress, but you have more control over it than you may think.

Why is managing stress important to me?

- Have more peace of mind
- Sleep better
- Enjoy time with others
- Be more productive
- Be more optimistic and grateful
- Be happier

What causes stress — and how do I recognize it?

**Short-term (acute) stress**
A brief situation like a traffic jam—
You may sweat, clench your teeth, or yell.

**Long-term (chronic) stress**
An ongoing situation like money problems or family conflict—
You may feel out of control, unable to concentrate, or tired all the time.

Proven ways to help manage stress

Focus on things you can control.

**Daily self-care**

- **Your body**
  - Be active
  - Eat well
  - Sleep well

- **Your mind**
  - Meditate
  - Take time to relax
  - Connect to your life purpose

**Learn skills**

What skills would help you manage your stress?

- **Examples:**
  - How to manage time or money
  - How to resolve conflicts
  - How to move from worry to action

**Get support**

- Be with people who support you
- Learn from others
- Ask for help
  - Call 2-1-1 to be referred to a person or agency for help.

*All activities shown are examples — you can pick your own.*
You Can Learn to Manage Stress
Focus on what you can control and make a plan.

### Pick something you want to do now.

I want to try:

---

### Be honest with yourself about what you are really ready to work on.

---

Now set up an experiment to learn what works for you.
You’ll learn by trying and creating your own formula. Follow the steps below.

#### 1 Make a Plan. Planning out the details will help you succeed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pick a small step</th>
<th>Prepare</th>
<th>Think ahead</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pick a small step toward your goal.</td>
<td>What resources could help? <em>(Time? Money? A class?)</em></td>
<td>What might get in the way or make this harder?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Who will support you? <em>(A friend? A support group? A counselor?)</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What changes to your environment would help?</td>
<td>What can you do when that happens?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>What will inspire you to keep going?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

#### 2 Act and Track. Try out your step for a defined period.

Start date: ____________ How will you keep track of what you do? ____________
Review date: ____________ Who will you be accountable to? ____________

---

#### 3 Reflect and Adjust. How did that work? You can learn from whatever happens.

There’s no failure if you keep learning. Adjust your plan and keep going.

How did it go, and what did you learn? ____________
How will you adjust your next step? ____________

Be sure to celebrate what you accomplished and what you learned.

---

Intermountain Healthcare complies with applicable federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. Se prove servicios de interpretación gratis. Hable con un empleado para solicitarlo. 我们将根据您的需求提供免费的口译服务。请找寻工作人员协助。

© 2013–2017 Intermountain Healthcare. All rights reserved. The content presented here is for your information only. It is not a substitute for professional medical advice, and it should not be used to diagnose or treat a health problem or disease. Please consult your healthcare provider if you have any questions or concerns. More health information is available at intermountainhealthcare.org.