

Wellness Articles

Attached are weekly health and wellness articles provided by Alberta Health Services. As a way to help all Albertans live a healthy life, we welcome and encourage weekly newspapers, community newsletters and other publications to reproduce this information free of charge. Credit to Alberta Health Services or the identified content provider would be appreciated.

If you would like to be added to the distribution list for these articles, please email: Rebecca.johnson2@albertahealthservices.ca. You will receive a monthly email containing articles for the upcoming four weeks.

An archive of past wellness articles is available at <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/9966.asp>

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Alberta Health Services (AHS) knows that wellness matters, and this year AHS has been asking our people and Albertans, 'What's your balance?' Throughout the year of wellness and finding balance, AHS is highlighting different areas of wellness. Over the next couple months, AHS is bringing physical activity to the forefront.

Join the Conversation on social media using the hashtag **#AHSWhatsYourBalance**.

Walking for Fitness

Warm summer days and evenings make getting outside for a walk an easy and enjoyable way to add exercise to your day. Health Canada recommends healthy adults under the age of 65 get at least 2.5 hours a week of moderate physical activity. Simply adding a brisk walk to your daily routine can improve overall health.

Create a few habits to help make your daily walks fun and help you maintain a healthy level of activity.

- Begin by setting a goal. You may want to start with a brisk 30 minute walk each day and work your way up to 10,000 steps a day.
- Wear comfortable footwear that provides protection and supports the foot.
- Try tracking your steps with a phone app or a pedometer.
- Challenge friends and colleagues to join you.
- Schedule a 15 or 30-minute walk before work in the morning, into your lunch hour or immediately after work.
- Daily dog walks are also a great way to keep up both you and your four-legged friend healthy.
- Whenever possible, walk to appointments, meetings or to run errands.
- Get to know your neighbourhood by taking a slightly different route each time you walk. You just might find some hidden gems near home.



- Find walks that include hills or stairs to increase your challenge and improve cardiovascular benefits.

Using a few simple tips can help make a daily walk one of the most pleasurable parts of your day.