How to stay active during COVID-19

With unprecedented changes in the way we live our lives, it is important to be aware of how this impacts your activity levels. Being active is critical for maintaining both physical and mental health, and can reduce your risk of many common chronic health issues (such as diabetes and heart disease). Regular physical activity may actually prime our immune system to lessen the risk of infection. Physical activity can counteract many of the adverse effects of cancer and its treatment, including fatigue. Before you start exercising please consider your current health status, as cancers and the different treatments may affect your ability to perform some activities.

Warm up / Cool down Start and finish your workout with a 5 minute gentle warm up/cool down



Cardio

10 minutes of cardio at an intensity that makes you huff and puff but you can still hold a conversation (brisk walk around the house, skipping, marching on the spot)

FOR EACH OF THE 7 EXERCISES

START WITH 10-12 REPETITIONS AND PROGRESS UP TO 15 AS THE EXERCISE BECOMES EASIER

PERFORM EXERCISES AT A CONTROLLED RATE

REPEAT THE CYCLE OF 7 EXERCISES 3 TIMES



Squats (sit to stand with a chair, progress to full squat)



Push ups (against wall, progress to on your knees, full push up)



Step ups on a step (alternate which leg leads)



Bicep curl



Bent over row



Shoulder press



Side plank (hold for 10 seconds progress to 30)



Stay hydrated



Wear appropriate footwear



Use a theraband. light dumbbells or bottles of water/ cans of soup



Try to exercise at the same time of day, so that it becomes routine

For more information contact exercisephysiology@baker.edu.au or visit baker.edu.au



If you are just starting out with exercise, you should progressively increase your weekly activity with a goal of at least 150 minutes of moderate or 75 minutes of vigorous intensity aerobic exercise each week and two to three resistance exercise sessions each week.

If feeling unwell (lightheaded, intense chest pain) stop exercising. If you continue to feel unwell, seek medical advice or contact your GP

The above exercises are generic and not individualised. Please seek the assistance of an accredited exercise physiologist (AEP) to individually tailor a exercise program to your current fitness levels and needs. To find an AEP in your local area, please go to essa.org.au/findanaep

