



How to stay socially connected in a healthy way

Humans are social creatures. We need social relationships and communities to grow, to thrive and to stay physically and emotionally healthy.¹ Even the most introverted people need interaction with others from time to time.

Social isolation and loneliness can result in psychological and physical disintegration. Adults who are lonely or socially isolated are at higher risks for:

- ⬆ High blood pressure
- ⬆ Heart disease
- ⬆ Obesity
- ⬆ Anxiety and depression
- ⬆ Cognitive decline and more²

Older adults are at a higher risk for isolation. Reasons why include limited mobility, hearing, vision and memory loss.

**Gather friends
to do activities
you enjoy.**

Connect with yourself

Knowing yourself is the first step in finding and establishing new social connections. Ask yourself:

- ✓ How much time do you prefer to spend with others?
- ✓ Do you prefer to connect with people in person? Via video chats or on the phone? Are text messages enough for you? Do you like a combo of them all?
- ✓ What kind of interaction feels best to you? Do you prefer casual chitchat? Deeper conversations? Do you just want to be near another person even if you're not talking?
- ✓ Are there people in your life who help you grow? Are there people in your life you think might be holding you back?

Connect with others

Armed with the knowledge of how you like to socialize, create a plan for yourself. Don't be afraid to speak up. If you find yourself in a social situation that makes you uncomfortable, say so.

Communication is key. Here are some ideas to connect with others:

At work

- Start a lunch group.
- Schedule virtual coffee chats with coworkers online.
- Create a walking group.
- Give praise freely and often! Tell your colleagues what they do that inspires you or makes you grateful.



At home

- Eat dinner with your family. Share about your day.
- Plan a family trip.
- Schedule a recurring date night with your partner.
- Have a screen-free night and do something creative together.
- Tell your kids and/or partner why you're proud of them.



With other loved ones

- Schedule a weekly or monthly phone date with a friend.
- Find a workout buddy to enjoy time together while getting some physical activity.
- Tell a good friend why you value their friendship—it can mean a lot!



There's no right or wrong way to find social balance.

Be respectful of your comfort levels and those of others. In turn, you may connect with them and find the community and companionship you need.

Learn how Teladoc Health can help support you on your wellness journey.
To sign up or learn more, go to TeladocHealth.com/Smile/UOFAK.

¹<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/basics/social-life>

²https://www.cdc.gov/social-connectedness/about/?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/emotional-wellbeing/social-connectedness/affect-health.htm

Las comunicaciones del programa Teladoc Health están disponibles en español. Al inscribirse, podrá configurar el idioma que prefiera para las comunicaciones provenientes del medidor y del programa. Para inscribirse en español, llame al 800-835-2362 o visite /UOFAK

Premiera Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alaska is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association. Teladoc Health is an independent company that provides diabetes management, hypertension management, weight management, and diabetes prevention services on behalf of Premiera Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alaska.
© Teladoc Health, Inc. All rights reserved. Teladoc Health marks and logos are owned by Teladoc Health, Inc. All programs and services are subject to applicable terms and conditions.