

April 2020

EAP NEWS

A worksite newsletter for employees provided by your Employee Assistance Program.



COVID-19: Reducing Fear and Anxiety

Uncertainty about what's going to happen with COVID-19 and its impact on everyone can have you feeling anxious and fearful. Whether you are concerned about your job or an elderly family member, getting food and supplies, or even getting sick yourself—you have an important goal: combat this stress and stay calm.

Here's how: 1) Practice self-care: Focus on what you can control. Get more sleep, read a new book, have a warm bath, or take a walk somewhere quiet—whatever you do, now is the time to prioritize your well-being. 2) Limit social media use: Set limits on how often you use social media, especially if you're at home where it's tempting to check in more often. Don't let a constant stream of tweets, status updates, and conflicting opinions overwhelm you. 3) Read only reliable news sources: Stay informed by reading only reliable sources, such as government websites, the WHO, and the CDC. Other news sources may be less accurate, and they may cause feelings of panic and concern. 4) Talk it out: Acknowledge any stress or anxiety you're feeling right now, and ask others how they're coping. Talk to family and friends, and make sure you check in with how your kids are feeling. 5) Reach out to coworkers: Now is the time for coworkers to come together. Focus on maintaining positive morale at work, and if you're working remotely, set regular meetings.

Does Relationship Addiction Affect You?

Is your romantic relationship characterized by possessiveness, jealousy, manipulation, and feeling terrified of abandonment? These states are common among those who struggle with "relationship addiction." Relationship addiction (or love addiction) is not classified as a mental disorder, but many affected by it believe it should be. The dominant pattern is addictive clinging along with severe relationship conflict. Taking over a partner's responsibilities, focusing on the partner's "true potential" rather than abusive behaviors, or molding yourself to be the person your partner wants are also common. Escaping relationship addiction is possible with counseling. Talk to your EAP. Change will be a rewarding journey of hard work, but it won't be about "fixing the relationship." It will be about learning more about how you respond to relationships, discovering the real you, and finding the healthy relationship you really want.

Coronavirus Links: Worth a Look

New information resources are appearing weekly to help everyone worldwide understand, plan, cope, and overcome the hardship associated with the coronavirus pandemic. Consider these resources and easily memorized bitly.com links to help you remember them and share with others.

These are from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

- Everything You Need to Know: [CoronaVirus.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)
- Disinfecting Your Home: bitly.com/corona-clean
- Homemade Disinfectant: bitly.com/virus-bleach
- Fear & Anxiety Coronavirus: bitly.com/corona-fear

* Note: Links are created from U.S. CDC.gov, but your employer may not permit viewing of shortened links on internal computers.



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Exercise Motivation Tip: Sign a Contract

Do you keep wanting to start an exercise program, but so far have failed to launch? There are scientifically proven ways to motivate yourself. You have heard of one: telling a friend who will hold you to account. Well, there are embellishments to this one you may wish to try. They include using a group of friends (not just one, to create more embarrassment), signing a written contract in front of them, and even adding a financial penalty for specific steps you miss along the way to your goal—that your friends keep! That's serious motivation. Source: www.dailyburn.com/life/fitness/workout-motivation-tips/

Improve Depression Treatment with Talk Therapy

Talk to your doctor about adding talk therapy (counseling) to help treat depression more efficiently in addition to any pharmaceutical intervention you have been given. Talk therapy may 1) help you prevent negative self-talk scripts that are naturally associated with depression, but can make the condition feel worse; 2) assist you in feeling better faster during the natural delay in the medication's positive effects; 3) offer you additional structure and a helping relationship you can look forward to each week; and 4) add a collaborating professional to work with your doctor to offer feedback on your condition.

Intervening with a Troubled Teen

Most parents do the best job they can raising children, but any expert will tell you that it also takes a bit of luck. If you are slowly adapting to increasing behavioral problems of a teenager, don't dismiss the idea of a professional assessment to help you identify a path to correct defiant or oppositional behavior. In the 1980s, a worldwide movement of parents helping parents emerged based on a book called Toughlove. Decades later, many of its ideas remain standard fare as tools for helping parents reassert and recapture control over their homes,

Try an Addiction Medicine Physician

Loved ones typically play significant roles in leading an alcoholic or drug addict into treatment. A first stop along the way is often a doctor's office. The hope is that the physician will motivate the ill loved one to accept proper help. If this becomes your experience, consider a specialist physician in "addiction medicine." These highly trained medical doctors are concerned with the prevention, evaluation, diagnosis, treatment, and recovery of persons with the disease of addiction. They diagnose substance-related health conditions and treat persons suffering with unhealthful use of nicotine, alcohol, prescription medications, and other licit and illicit drugs. What's more, these physicians also help family members whose well-being are affected by a loved one's substance use or addiction. This is you. With over 6,000 physician addiction specialists nationwide, there's likely one close by. Visit the American Society on Addiction Medicine at ASAM.org, click on "Find a Physician," or contact an employee assistance program to learn more. Source: ASAM.org

Maintain Healthy Lungs to Fight COVID-19

You are at higher risk of a deadly outcome from COVID-19 if you smoke. Smoking increases your risk for acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) and adversely affects your immune system. Now is the time to stop using tobacco, and to give up vaping and marijuana—whatever can deplete lung functioning. Many changes in society are likely from the global fight against the coronavirus pandemic. One of them is likely to be a new effort by smokers to quit, this time for good. Be a part of this healthy change by contacting your employee assistance program for more information or SmokeFree.gov. Source: tobacco.ucsf.edu/blog



Birth Order: Behavioral Traits that Affect Your Life and Work

In this webinar, we will learn how our birth order affects our behavioral style, how it affects us at work, and how it affects our relationships. We will share tools to help us interact with friends, family and colleagues based on their birth order.

Log-in any time this month to watch the webinar and ask the expert questions!



College Corner

For parents of high school juniors and younger students: The COVID-19 virus has driven almost everyone into isolation at worst. Any physical meetings with experts in any service industry are conducted with caution. Still, college will start every September. College planning over the phone and computer has now become the necessity for college bound families. We have helped over 26,000 families with a virtual format, perfected over the years. The time of year has come for juniors (and younger students) to do the type of college planning that actually reduces the cost of attendance for almost all families. Want to lower the stress in your household with seasoned experts in the college process?

We proactively help the student/family find the best college from an Academic, Social and Financial Fit. Our proprietary tools were created for this purpose. The content of the college process is very large, but offered over time, is consumable.

Arrange your free 15 minute consultation, and see if the IBH College Planning Program is right for you. Click here: <https://my.timetrade.com/book/N62GH>. 15 minutes can save you tens of thousands of dollars per year.

PS – If you or your student has college debt, we can help lower your payments!