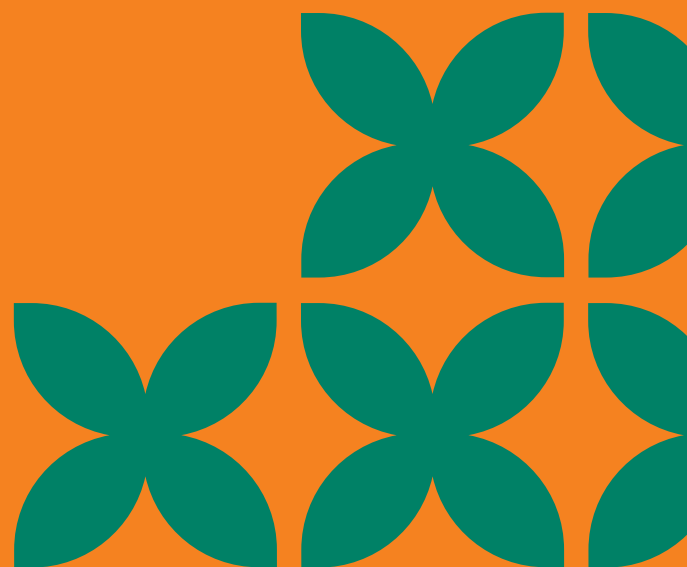


# A guide to self- management for COVID-19 illness

Advice for adults and adolescents  
recovering from COVID-19



Name: .....

Onset of COVID-19 symptoms: .....

Date this book was given: .....

Name and contact details of health care professional providing booklet:

.....

Name and contact details of local health care services:

.....

## Who is this booklet for?

**This booklet provides support and advice for rangatahi and adults who are recovering from COVID-19 illness.**

COVID-19 may cause long-term health problems and symptoms that could interfere with daily activities. In some cases, these can persist beyond 12 weeks and is referred to as long COVID, or post-COVID-19 syndrome. Symptoms generally improve with time and this booklet provides some practical suggestions to self-manage these common symptoms. If symptoms are worsening or not improving with time, you should seek medical advice from your GP or the health care professional visiting you.

The advice in this booklet should not replace any individualised rehabilitation programme or any advice you may have been given by your health care professionals.

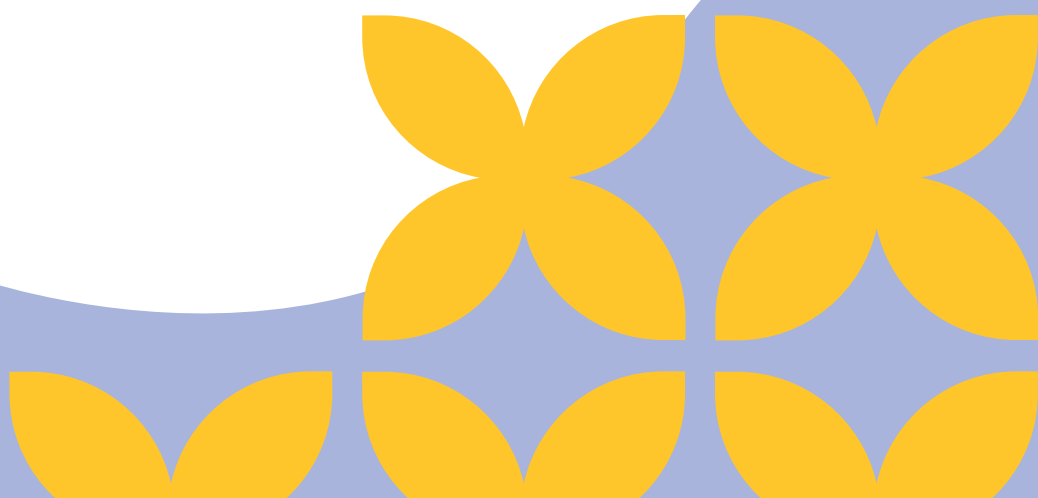
Your whānau and friends can help support you as you recover, and it may be helpful to share this booklet with them.

Kindly acknowledging WHO Regional Office for Europe.

This translation was not created by the WHO Regional Office for Europe. WHO Regional Office for Europe is not responsible for the content or accuracy of this translation. The original English edition shall be the binding and authentic edition: Support for rehabilitation: self-management after COVID-19-related illness, second edition. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2021.

## **This booklet provides information on the following areas:**

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## Symptoms needing urgent attention from health care professionals

There are some medical complications that can arise while recovering from COVID-19 that need medical attention. It's important to contact a health care professional if you experience any of the following symptoms:

- You become very short of breath with minimal activity and it does not improve with any of the positions for easing breathlessness (page 5).
- There is a change in how breathless you are at rest and it does not get better by using the breathing control techniques (page 6).
- You experience chest pain, racing heartbeat or dizziness in certain positions or during exercise or activity.
- Your confusion gets worse or you have difficulty speaking or understanding speech.
- You have new weakness in your face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body.
- Your anxiety or mood worsens, or you have thoughts of harming yourself.
- If you experience other symptoms that are concerning, you should seek the attention of a health care professional.

## Managing breathlessness

It's common to experience breathlessness after being ill from COVID-19.

Losing strength and fitness while you were unwell and the illness itself, can mean you become breathless easily. Feeling breathless can make you feel anxious, which can make breathlessness worse. Staying calm and learning the best way to manage your breathlessness will help.

Remember, it's normal to become more breathless when exerting yourself, such as walking up a flight of stairs, but you should recover to a level where you're not thinking about your breathing within a few minutes of rest. Your breathlessness should improve as you gradually recover or increase your activities, but in the meantime, the positions and techniques below can help to manage it.

## Positions to ease breathlessness

These are some positions that may reduce your breathlessness. Try each of them to see which one(s) help you. You can also try the breathing techniques described below while in any of these positions to help ease your breathing.



### Lying prone

Lying flat on your stomach, or prone, can help breathlessness. It's not comfortable for everyone, but is a position to consider.



### High side lying

Lying on your side propped up by pillows, supporting your head and neck, with your knees slightly bent.



### Forward lean sitting

Sit at a table, lean forward from the waist with your head and neck resting on the pillow and your arms resting on the table. You can also try this without the pillows and rest your head on your hands.



### Forward lean sitting (no table in front)

Sit on a chair, lean forward to rest your arms on your lap or the armrests of the chair.



### Forward lean standing

While standing, lean forward onto a window sill or other stable surface.



### Standing with back support

Lean with your back against a wall and your hands by your side. Have your feet about 30 cm away from the wall and slightly apart.

## Breathing techniques



### Controlled breathing

This technique will help you to relax and control your breathing.

- Sit in a comfortable and supported position.
- Put one hand on your chest and the other on your stomach.
- Only if it helps you to relax, close your eyes (otherwise leave them open) and focus on your breathing.
- Slowly breathe in through your nose (or mouth if you're unable to do this) and then out through your mouth.
- As you breathe, you'll feel the hand on your stomach rise more than the hand on your chest.
- Try to use as little effort as possible and make your breaths slow, relaxed and smooth.



### Paced breathing

This is useful to practise when carrying out activities that might take more effort or make you breathless, like climbing the stairs or walking up a hill. It's important not to rush, and you can take rests.

- Think about breaking the activity down into smaller parts to make it easier without getting so tired at the end.
- Breathe in before you make the effort of the activity, such as before you climb up a step.
- Breathe out while making the effort, such as climbing up a step.
- You may find it helpful to breathe in through your nose and out through your mouth.

# Energy conservation and fatigue management

Fatigue is the most reported debilitating symptom experienced by those recovering from COVID-19. It is often described as an overwhelming sense of physical and mental tiredness.

## Physical fatigue:

You may find that when you're fatigued, your body feels overwhelmingly heavy and that even small movements take an enormous amount of energy.

## Mental and cognitive fatigue:

You may find that when you're fatigued, it becomes difficult to think, concentrate or take in new information and that your memory and learning are affected. Even basic word-finding and problem-solving might be difficult for you.

Fatigue may leave you feeling exhausted after completing your usual tasks, and you may wake up feeling as tired as when you went to sleep.

Your fatigue levels may change from week to week, day to day or hour to hour. You may have little motivation to do anything because you're so tired and/or know that undertaking the smallest task will leave you exhausted.

It can be difficult for you to explain the exhaustion to whānau, friends and colleagues.

Helping others to understand your fatigue and how it impacts you can make a big difference to how you cope with and manage your fatigue. It is ok if some days you don't manage to achieve anything.

## Pacing

Pacing helps you manage your activities without aggravating your symptoms. The first step is to determine how much activity you can manage and then develop an activity plan to stay within your current capabilities and avoid 'overdoing things'. It's important not to compare yourself to others or to how much you could do before.

You can then increase your exercise in a controlled way over time as your energy levels and symptoms improve.

By pacing your activities you're controlling the demands and ensuring these are in line with your current capabilities.

## Prioritise

When your energy levels are low, prioritise what activities 'need' to be done and do these first. If you run out of energy, leave the activities you 'want' to do for another day.

## Plan

Plan your day or week and spread your activities out, allowing for time to rest.

Plan rest periods as many times as needed throughout the day. It may take a few attempts to get right, but once you feel you've found your right level, it's important to ensure a period of consistency before you increase your activity.

# Physical activity and exercise

Spending time in hospital or being ill at home with COVID-19 over a long period of time, can reduce your muscle strength and endurance. Exercise is important for regaining your muscle strength, **but** this needs to be managed safely alongside other COVID-19 symptoms.

You might experience a ‘relapse’, with worsening symptoms after minimal exertion. This is typically felt hours or days after physical or mental exertion.

It normally takes 24 hours to recover and can affect your energy levels, concentration, sleep and memory, and muscle aches and flu-like symptoms. If you experience this, you need to avoid exercise and activities and conserve your energy. If you feel ok, you can increase your level of activity.

This is described in scientific terms as “post-exertional malaise”, or PEM for short.

Use the Rating of Perceived Exertion (RPE) Scale below to guide you – this is an assessment of how hard you feel you’re working on a scale from 0 (no exertion at all) to 10 (maximum exertion).

The same activity will have different RPE scores in different people or at different times. For example, you may score slow walking as RPE 1 (extremely light) but this may be scored as 4 (somewhat hard) by another person, or by you on a different day. You can write down your daily activities and their RPE scores to monitor your condition and guide you on how you can increase your activity level.

Borg CR-10		Phases				
Score	Level of exertion	1	2	3	4	5
0	Rest/no exertion at all					
1	Really easy/extremely light	█				
2	Easy/very light		█			
3	Moderate/light			█		
4	Somewhat hard				█	
5	Hard (heavy)					█
6						
7	Very hard					
8						
9	Extremely hard					
10	Maximal exertion					



## Phases of exercise

You should consider your return to exercise in five phases.

Stay at each phase for a minimum of seven days before progressing to the next.

Drop back a phase if you find it difficult or experience setbacks in your symptoms.

If you experience any 'red flag' symptoms such as chest pain or dizziness, you should stop immediately and not restart your exercise programme until you have been seen by a health care professional.

### Phase 1

#### Preparation for return to exercise (your RPE score 0-1)

Controlled breathing exercises (page 6), gentle walking, stretching and balance exercises. If your RPE score for any of these is more than 1, do not do them in this phase. Stretching your muscles can be done sitting or standing. Each stretch should be performed gently, and you should hold each one for 15–20 seconds.



Reach your right arm up to the ceiling and then lean over to the left slightly; you should feel a stretch along the right side of your body. Repeat on the other side.



Put your arm out in front of you. Keeping your arm straight, bring it across your body at shoulder height, using your other hand to squeeze your arm to your chest so you feel a stretch around your shoulder. Repeat on the opposite side.



Sit on the edge of a chair with your leg out straight in front of you with your heel resting on the ground. Place your hands on your other thigh as support. Sitting as tall as you can, bend slightly forward at your hips until you can feel a slight stretch down the back of the leg that is stretched out. Repeat on the opposite side.



Stand with your feet apart, lean forward onto a wall and step one leg behind you. Bend your front knee, keeping your back leg straight and your heel on the floor. You should feel a stretch in the back of your lower leg. Repeat on the opposite side.



Stand up and hold onto something sturdy for support. Bend one leg up behind you, using the hand on the same side to hold your ankle or the back of your leg. Take your foot up towards your bottom until you feel a stretch along the front of your thigh. Repeat on the opposite side.

## Phase 2

### Low-intensity activity (your RPE score of 2–3)

Walking, light household/garden tasks. If your RPE score for any of these is more than 3, do not do them in this phase.

If you can tolerate RPE scores of 2–3, you can gradually increase the time spent in exercises by 10–15 minutes per day. You'll need to spend at least seven days in this phase without relapse before progressing to the next level.

## Phase 3

### Moderate-intensity activity (your RPE score of 4–5)

Brisk walking, going up and down stairs, jogging, introducing inclines, resistance exercises.

If your RPE score for any of these is more than 5, do not do them in this phase.

### Example of strengthening exercises

#### For your arms



#### Bicep curl

With your arms by your side, hold a weight in each hand, such as a tin of food, with your palms facing upwards. Gently lift the lower part of both arms (bending at the elbows) bringing the weights up towards your shoulders and slowly lower back down again. You can do this exercise sitting or standing.



#### Wall push off

Place your hands flat against a wall at shoulder height, with fingers facing upwards, and your feet about 30 cm away from the wall. Slowly lower your body towards the wall by bending your elbows, then gently push away from the wall again, until your arms are straight.



#### Arm raises to the side

Hold a weight in each hand with your arms by your sides and your palms facing inwards towards your body. Raise both arms out to the side, up to your shoulder level (but not higher) and slowly lower back down.

For more information, visit

[www.csp.org.uk/news/coronavirus/clinical-guidance/long-covid](http://www.csp.org.uk/news/coronavirus/clinical-guidance/long-covid)

## For your legs



### Sit to stand

Sit in a chair with your feet a hip-width apart. With your arms by your side or crossed over your chest, slowly stand up, hold the position for the count of three, and slowly sit back down onto the chair.



### Knee straightening

Sit in a chair with your feet together. Straighten one knee and hold your leg out straight for a moment, then slowly lower it. Repeat with your other leg. Increase the time holding your leg out straight to a count of three.



### Squats

Stand with your back against a wall or other stable surface and your feet slightly apart. Move your feet about 30 cm away from the wall. Keeping your back against the wall, or holding on to a chair, slowly bend your knees a short distance; your back will slide down the wall. Keep your hips higher than your knees. Pause for a moment before slowly straightening your knees again.



### Heel raises

Rest your hands on a stable surface (such as a chair) to support your balance, but do not lean on them. Slowly rise up on to your toes, and slowly lower back down again.

## Phase 4

### Moderate-intensity exercises with coordination and functioning skills

#### (your RPE score of 5–7)

Running, cycling, swimming and dance classes. If your RPE score for any of these exercises is more than 7, do not do them in this phase.

## Phase 5

### Return to your baseline exercises (your RPE score of 8–10)

You're now able to complete your usual pre COVID-19 regular exercise/sports/ activity regime. No exercise should be painful. If you experience pain, chest pain, or feel faint or dizzy during exercise, you should stop immediately and not restart your exercise programme until you have been seen by a health care professional.

**See your GP for a referral to physiotherapy if you have any ongoing concerns.**

# Managing problems with your voice

## Problems with your voice

COVID-19 can cause a sore throat, irritable cough and a sensation of mucus pooling in the throat with the need to clear your throat regularly. You may have a weak, breathy or hoarse voice, particularly if you were ventilated (had a breathing tube) in hospital. You may feel that your throat/upper airway is more sensitive to the environment around you than before you were ill. For example, if you're exposed to a strong scent, it may trigger a cough, sensation of throat tightness or restriction of breathing.

If your symptoms don't get better over time, please seek the opinion of a health care professional.

## Advice for problems with your voice

- Aim for good hydration. Sip water throughout the day to keep your voice working.
- Don't strain your voice. Don't whisper as this can strain your vocal cords. Try not to raise your voice or shout.
- Steam inhalation (covering your head with a towel and inhaling steam from a bowl of boiling water) for 10–15 minutes can help with dryness and moisturises the vocal tract.
- Gastric reflux (sometimes called acid reflux or heartburn) is very common, so avoid eating late at night or eating foods that cause indigestion.

- If you smoke, it is ideal if you stop as this will make difficulties with your voice worse. Free help to stop smoking is available via [www.smokefree.org.nz](http://www.smokefree.org.nz) or talk to your local health care provider.
- Use other ways of communicating, such as writing, texting or using gestures, if talking is difficult or uncomfortable.

## Advice for persistent cough

- Try breathing through your nose instead of your mouth.
- Try sucking on ice or low-sugar boiled sweets.
- Sip on water throughout the day.
- Try the 'stop cough exercise'. As soon as you feel the urge to cough, close your mouth and cover it with your hand (SMOTHER the cough). At the same time, make yourself SWALLOW. STOP breathing – take a pause. When you start to breathe again, breathe in and out through your nose SOFTLY.
- If you cough at night, try lying on your side or use pillows to prop yourself up.

# Managing swallowing problems

You may have difficulties with swallowing foods and drink because the muscles that help with swallowing may have become weak. For those who have been ventilated in hospital, the tube can cause some bruising and swelling of the throat and voice box. Paying attention to swallowing is important to avoid choking and lung infections. This can happen if food/drink 'goes down the wrong way' and gets into your lungs.

If you have trouble swallowing, these techniques may help.

- **Sit upright whenever you eat or drink.**  
Never eat or drink while lying down.
- **Remain upright** (seated, standing, walking) for at least 30 minutes after meals.
- **Try foods of different consistencies** to see if some foods are easier to swallow than others. It may help to choose soft, smooth and/or moist foods at first, or to chop up solid foods into very small pieces. Take your time while eating and don't rush.
- **Concentrate when you eat or drink.**  
Try to have your meals in a quiet place. Avoid talking while eating or drinking as this may open the airway and cause the food or drink to go down the wrong way. **Make sure your mouth is clear** before taking another bite or sip. If you need to, swallow again.
- **Eat smaller meals** throughout the day if you get tired when eating full meals.
- **If you cough or choke** when you eat and drink, seek advice from a health professional, as food or drink may be going down the wrong way into your lungs.
- **Keep your mouth clean** by brushing your teeth and staying hydrated.

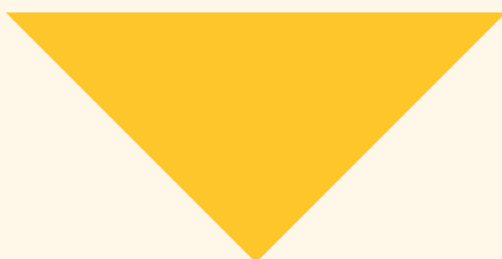
Swallowing difficulties can cause food and drink to go down the wrong way, into the trachea (windpipe) and lungs instead of down to the stomach. This is known as '**aspiration.**'

Aspiration may lead to **choking, chest infections and pneumonia.**

Speech-language therapists specialise in supporting people who have difficulty with communication and/or swallowing. See your GP for a referral to a Speech Language therapist if you are regularly choking on food and/or drinks, or, if you are having swallowing difficulties and develop a chest infection.

## Nutrition, including smell and taste problems

COVID-19 can affect your appetite and weight in different ways. If you've spent time in hospital, you might have lost weight. On the other hand, you may have gained unwanted weight if you're struggling with post-COVID conditions and are less active than before. It's important to have good nutrition and hydration to support your body with recovery.



### **If you are a healthy weight or have gained unwanted weight**

- have 5+ servings of fruit and vegetables every day
- choose wholegrain bread, rice and pasta
- Include proteins such as fish, eggs, lean meat, nuts, and legumes such as beans, lentils/pulses every day
- have 2-3 servings dairy or dairy alternatives, every day
- choose and prepare foods low in salt (sodium); if using salt, choose iodised salt
- choose and prepare foods with little or no added sugar
- choose unsaturated fats found in fish, avocado, nuts and vegetable oils rather than saturated/transfat
- have plenty to drink.

### **If you are underweight or have lost weight due to illness**

- add snacks in between your meals
- choose drinks that give you energy, e.g. milk, flavoured milk/smoothies, Up & Go, Complan, fruit juice
- increase energy in foods by adding cream, cheese, nut butters, mayonnaise, butter and oil.

If you have ongoing concerns about your weight please see your GP for referral to a dietitian.

### **Advice if you have reduced smell or taste**

- Ensure good oral hygiene with twice daily tooth brushing
- Experiment with herbs and spices like chilli, lemon juice and fresh herbs to add flavour to your foods, but be cautious as these can worsen gastric reflux.

**For more information, visit the Ministry of Health Website or [www.healthed.govt.nz](http://www.healthed.govt.nz) and search for Health Eating, Active Living (HE1518)**

## Managing problems with attention, memory and thinking clearly

You can experience a range of difficulties with your thinking skills (cognition) while recovering from COVID-19.

These can include problems with memory, attention, information processing, planning and organisation. This is also referred to as 'brain fog'. Brain fog is often made worse by fatigue, meaning the more tired you are, the more you notice increased difficulty with your thinking skills.



**It's important for you and your family to recognise if you're experiencing these difficulties, as they can have an impact on your relationships, daily activities and your return to work or education. If you experience any of these difficulties, these strategies may help.**

- **Minimise distractions.**  
Try to work in a quiet environment with no background distractions. You can use ear plugs if needed. If you're distracted when reading text, block off parts of the text using paper, or use your finger as a marker.
- **Complete activities when less fatigued.**  
When completing a task that demands your thinking skills, plan this for a time when you're less tired. For example, if you tire as the day goes on, do the task in the morning.
- **Take frequent breaks.**  
If the problem is made worse by fatigue, work for shorter periods of time and take breaks.
- **Set yourself reasonable targets or goals.**  
Having something definite to work towards will help you stay motivated. Make sure you set realistic goals that are achievable – for example, reading just five pages of a book every day.
- **Have a schedule.**  
Try to set up your daily/weekly schedule of tasks. It may help to plan activities ahead of time. Keeping a record, or breaking things down into manageable parts, can also help.
- **Use incentives.**  
When you achieve a target or goal, reward yourself – try something very simple, such as having a cup of tea or coffee, watching TV or going for a walk.
- **One thing at a time.**  
Don't rush or try to take in too much information at once, as this can lead to mistakes.
- **Aids.**  
Using lists, notes, diaries and calendars can help support your memory and routine.
- **Brain exercises.**  
You could try new hobbies, puzzles, word and number games, memory exercises or reading to help with your thinking. Start with brain exercises that challenge you but are achievable and increase the difficulty as you are able. This is important for keeping you motivated.

## **Managing stress, anxiety, depression and sleep problems**

Being unwell with COVID-19 and having longer-term symptoms can be a stressful experience. Understandably, this can have an impact on your mood.

It's not unusual to experience feelings of stress, anxiety (worry, fear) or depression (low mood, sadness). You may notice difficult thoughts or feelings related to your survival, particularly if you were very unwell.

Your mood may be further affected by frustrations about not yet being able to return to your daily activities or work in the way you would like to.



## Relaxation

Relaxation helps save the limited energy you have while recovering from illness. It can help control your anxiety and improve your mood. Below is an example of a relaxation technique.

### Grounding technique

Take slow gentle breaths and ask yourself:



What are five things I can see?



What are four things I can feel?



What are three things I can hear?



What are two things I can smell?



What is one thing I can taste?

Think of the answers slowly to yourself, one sense at a time, and spend at least 10 seconds focusing on each one.

It's important to remember that your symptoms are a normal part of recovery following COVID-19. Worrying and thinking about your symptoms can often make them worse. For example, if you focus on headaches, you're likely to get more headaches.

Also, it's important to know that symptoms are often linked: an increase in one symptom leads to an increase in another symptom.

If you're fatigued, your concentration will be affected, which in turn will affect your memory, which can then increase your anxiety and, consequently, your fatigue.



As you can see, this can become a cycle.

**The good news** is that an improvement in one area should lead to an improvement in another. These are normal and understandable and appropriate responses, below are some steps that you, your family, whānau and carer can do with you to get through it.

## These are some simple things you can do to help.

- **Get enough quality sleep**
  - Have a regular routine of sleeping and waking time, using alarms if needed to remind you.
  - You, your whānau, and carers can try to ensure that your environment is free from things that might disturb you, such as too much light or noise.
  - Limit the use of electronic devices like phones and tablets an hour before bedtime; turning on night mode feature in the evening.
  - Minimise your intake of nicotine (such as from smoking/vaping), caffeine and alcohol.
  - Try relaxation techniques to get to sleep.
- **Alternative relaxation techniques**

Examples of relaxation techniques include meditation, mindfulness, guided imagery or visualisation, baths, aromatherapy, Tai Chi, yoga and music. YouTube has free videos and free apps which can be downloaded for your phone (such as Insistent Timer)
- **Staying socially connected is important for your mental wellbeing.**

Talking with others can help to reduce your stress and support you.
- **Healthy eating and gradually resuming your daily activities or hobbies to the best of your ability will improve your mood.**

## **The Doing What Matters in Times of Stress: An Illustrated Guide**

This booklet helps give you the practical skills you need to cope with your stress. You can access the guide at:  
[www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240003927](http://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240003927)

## **1737 Counselling Support**

Free call or text 1737 any time for support from a trained counsellor.  
Phone or text: 1737  
Website: [www.1737.org.nz](http://www.1737.org.nz)

## **Lifeline**

Phone: 0800 543 354  
(free, available 24/7)  
Suicide Crisis helpline: 0508 828 865  
Text: 4357  
Website: [www.lifeline.co.nz](http://www.lifeline.co.nz)

## **The Low Down**

Phone: 0800 111 757  
Text: 5626  
Website: [www.thelowdown.co.nz](http://www.thelowdown.co.nz)

**If you continue to experience difficulty managing stress, anxiety, depression or sleep, speak to your GP.**

# Managing pain

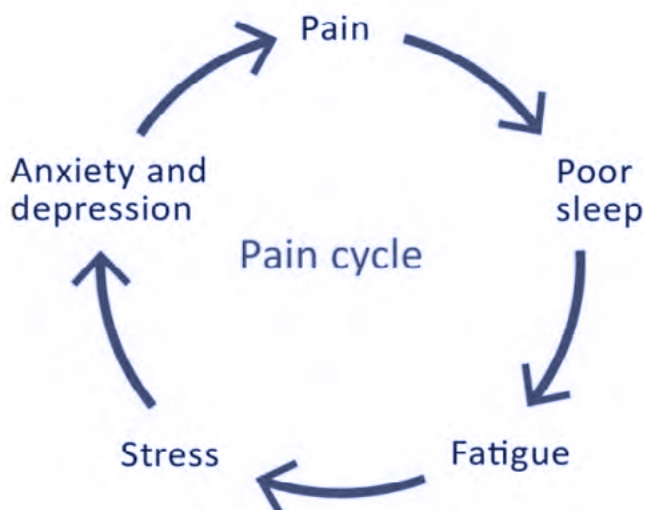
Pain is a commonly reported symptom by people recovering from COVID-19.

It can be in specific regions of the body (joint pain, muscle pain, headaches, chest pain and abdominal pain) or generalised and widespread. Persistent pain (lasting for more than three months) can be disabling and affects sleep, fatigue levels, mood and your ability to concentrate or work.

If you experience specific pain symptoms, such as chest pain, that are aggravated by activity, you should consult a healthcare professional.

## Advice on managing pain

- For joint, muscle or generalised pain, you can take paracetamol or ibuprofen with food.
- Health care professionals can advise on medications that can help with pain that is not responding to over-the-counter medicines.
- Sleeping well can help reduce pain symptoms. Timing the use of pain medications to coincide with sleep might be helpful if pain is interfering with your sleep.
- Listening to relaxing music or meditation can also help reduce pain levels.
- Pacing daily activities is one of the key tools for managing your pain. Gentle exercise also helps release the body's internal chemicals, called endorphins, which help reduce pain levels.
- Be reassured that pain is a common symptom and working through some pain is likely to help break the vicious cycle of pain. You can work through mild pain but don't exert yourself too much to the extent of worsening pain and fatigue levels.



# Returning to work

Returning to work can be challenging after COVID-19 and needs careful management to ensure you're ready.

Below are considerations for your return to work.

- Stay off work until you feel well enough.
- A well-managed graduated return to work may be good for your overall health and recovery.
- Talk to your employer about your health. You do not need to share confidential details but you should share details about your fitness for your work duties, responsibilities and hours – and your likely recovery timeframes.
- If you feel fit to return to work, consult your health care professional and employer's occupational health service to obtain clearance to recommence duties.
- Determine whether you would be able to do the full role or only part of the role.
- Discuss with your employer a return to work plan that involves a gradual increase in your duties over time and is regularly reviewed. This can help prevent relapse and further absence. When you return, adjustments can be made to your work pattern, such as your start and finish times, working from home or taking up lighter tasks to begin with.
- Your employer should be supportive in this phased return to work process, which can take weeks or months depending on the nature of your symptoms and the nature of your work. The Health and Safety at Work Act requires employers to provide reasonable accommodations.
- If you're unable to meet the requirements of your role, you could consider a change of duties or redeployment.
- If you think your medical condition is likely to affect your work in the long term, consult your health care professional and employer so that necessary adjustments can be made based on national policies and legal requirements. In occasional cases, where people are unable to return to work over an extended period, they may need to be medically retired.





## Need extra support while self-isolating because of COVID?

Work and Income may be able to help - **Anyone** can request help, you do not need to be on a benefit.



**MSD Covid line - 0800 512 337 8am-8pm 7 days**

**MSD General line - 0800 559 009**

**MSD Senior line - 0800 552 002**

**COVID-19 health advice - 0800 358 5453**

**For all other health concerns - 0800 611 116**

**In an emergency - 111**

If your deaf, hearing-impaired or find it hard to communicate by phone you can contact us on: **Email [MSD\\_Deaf\\_Services@msd.govt.nz](mailto:MSD_Deaf_Services@msd.govt.nz)**

### Apply online

 **Community support**

 **Urgent costs**

 **Community and costs**

For money to pay urgent costs while self-isolating like groceries, essential items, medicine or bills that are higher than usual. You can also ask for help from community, Iwi or Pacific organisations.

<https://workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/self-isolation-forms>

## Community organisations

Local community organisations, including iwi and Pacific organisations, are working to support people in their communities by delivering food and essential items and supporting you and your household to self-isolate safely. A list of local support is on the next page.

**Unite  
against**

**COVID-19**



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT**  
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIAŪ ORA



# Local Community Organisations - Hawke's Bay

Organisation	Area	Community	Contact
Te Taiwhenua o Tamatea	CHB	CHB	referrals@tamatea.org or phone 0273474233
Age Concern HB	Hastings & CHB	Seniors	manager@ageconcernhb.co.nz or phone 022 459 7612
Kainga Pasifika Services	Hastings	Pasifika	sililop@kaingapasifika.org.nz or phone 022 622 9552
Hikoi Koutou Trust	Hastings	Māori	hokianga@xtra.co.nz or phone 0212490991
Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga	Hastings	Hastings	whakamana@TTOH.iwi.nz or phone 0800 WHAKAMANA 08009425262
Multi Cultural Association HB	Hawkes Bay	Ethnic Communities	communityconnector@mcahb.org.nz or phone 0225697065
Kingsforce	Napier	Pasifika	covid19@kingsforce.org.nz or phone 0210564295
Te Taiwhenua o Te Whanganui a Orotu	Ahuriri	Ahuriri	connector@taiwhenua.com or phone 08004AHURIRI
Age Concern Napier	Napier	Seniors	cw@ageconcernhb.org.nz or phone (06) 8421346
Te Whare Maire o Tapuwae	Wairoa	Wairoa	reremoana.houkamau@twmot.co.nz or phone 0272459072
Rongomaiwahine Iwi Charitable Trust	Mahia	Mahia	koreromai@rongomaiwahine.iwi.nz or phone 0800100967
Te Iwi o Rakaipaaka Inc	Nuhaka	Nuhaka	info@ngatirakaipaaka.iwi.nz or phone 0272137784

# Symptom tracking diary

Please indicate in the first column whether this is a new symptom since contracting the illness or an old symptom that you had before COVID-19. In subsequent columns, score each symptom on a scale of 0–3 (0 not present, 1 slight or mild problem, 2 moderate problem, 3 severe or life disturbing). Enter your scores once a week to show whether your symptoms are getting better or worse (relapse).

Symptoms	New symptom Yes/No	Date	Date	Date	Date	Date	Date
		Score 0–3	Score 0–3	Score 0–3	Score 0–3	Score 0–3	Score 0–3
Do you become breathless when walking up a flight of stairs or dressing yourself?							
Do you have any cough/throat sensitivity/voice change?							
Do you have any change in sense of smell or taste?							
Do you have any difficulty with swallowing liquids or solids?							
Do you feel tired (fatigued) during the day?							
Do you experience worsening of symptoms 6–24 hours after physical or mental exertion?							
Do you have any pain (joint pain/muscular pain/headache/abdominal pain)?							
Do you get palpitations (racing of heartbeat) during movement or activity?							
Do you get dizziness during movement or activity?							
Do you have difficulties with your sleep?							
Do you have problems with cognition (memory/concentration/planning)?							
Do you feel anxious?							
Do you feel low or depressed?							
Do you have any problems in communication (finding the right words)?							
Do you have problems with mobility (moving about)?							
Do you have problems with doing personal care activities such as bathing or dressing?							
Do you have problems doing other daily activities such as housework or shopping?							
Do you have any problems with caring for family members or interacting with friends?							
Other symptoms (insert) –							
Other symptoms (insert) –							
Other symptoms (insert) –							





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