

MANAGING STRESS: SELF-CARE DURING THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

Prioritise

Break up the stress into smaller and more manageable chunks.

- Make "To do" lists - divide items into Must vs Should vs Could.
- Forgive yourself if you don't achieve something - priorities can change quickly.

Focus

Disrupt negative thinking by paying attention to the present moment.

- Look at and listen to the sights and sounds in the garden or driveway.
- Notice how your feet hit the floor when walking from room to room.
- Tune in to the smell and texture of your food as you eat.

Routine

Minimise the impact of stress by maintaining structure and routine.

- Keep doing things which are familiar and meaningful.
- New decorating projects and clear-outs can give you goals to work towards.
- Plan a new meal, start a new book or try different genres for movie nights.

Connect

Maintain support networks to promote belonging, safety and emotional regulation.

- Get in touch with friends or family that you haven't spoken to in a while.
- Use text, email, video chats or letters to check in and share news/gossip.
- Prioritise positive social media and avoid too much news coverage.

Breathe

Take control of your breathing to stifle panic.

- Slow and rhythmic breathing in and out.
- Consider movement & vocalisations from the Breath-Body-Mind approach: <https://tinyurl.com/tk4nkq4>

Exercise

Find creative ways of being active when indoors.

- Perform star jumps, lunges, planks and chair/wall push-ups during TV adverts.
- Learn a dance routine from YouTube.
- Schedule toning and bodyweight exercises each day: <https://tinyurl.com/y57d6cf7>

Gratitude

Take more notice of the pleasures in life.

- Thank others for what they do and say more often.
- Get into the habit of listing or reflecting on three good things which you are grateful for each day.

