# Simple Ways to Improve Your Health



"Health is not simply the absence of sickness"

Hannah Green

#### **Basic Rules for Good Health**

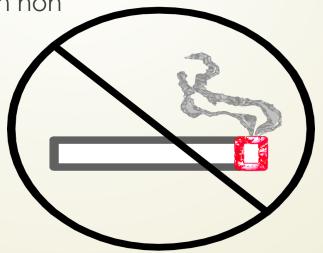
- Don't smoke
- Eat a healthy diet
- Maintain a healthy weight
- Exercise regularly
- Cut back on alcohol
- Manage stress
- Get adequate sleep

# Stop smoking

Quitting is the best gift you can give yourself and your loved ones!

- Improves your health
- Reduces your risk of cancer, lung disease, heart disease and other smoking related issues
- Secondhand smoke is associated with serious health issues in non smokers

- A pack of cigarettes in NJ is approximately \$8. A pack a day habit adds up to \$2944 per year
- Vaping, E-cigarettes are also dangerous to your health
- 1-800-Quit Now



## Eat a Healthy Diet

- Make half your plate fruits and vegetables
- Make at least half your grains whole grains
- Switch to fat-free or low-fat milk (1%)
- Read Nutrition labels
- Less than five ingredients
- Portion control
- Drink 5 to 8 glasses of water per day



#### Portion Distortion

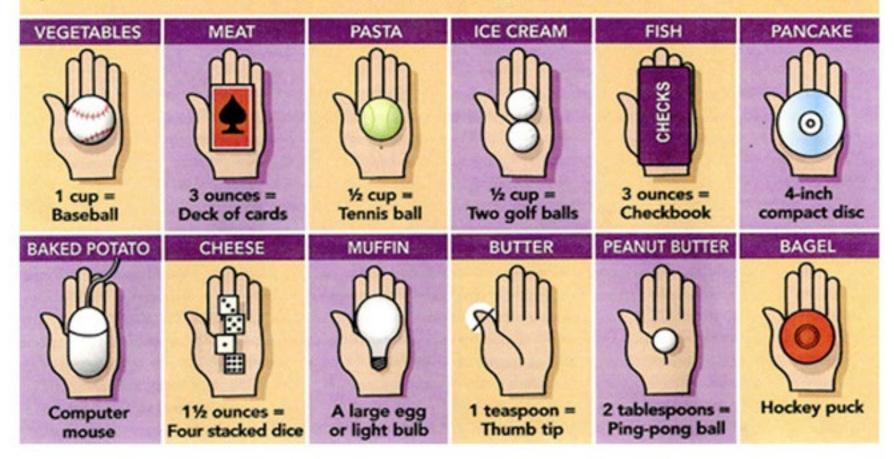
- Portion sizes have increased greatly over the last 20 years
- Most portions now are enough for multiple meals
- You do not have to clean your plate!
- Check serving size on nutrition labels





#### What's a healthy portion?

If you're not sure how much you should eat, everyday objects offer guidance on what makes up a healthy portion size



#### Maintain a healthy weight

- Everyone has a different body type
- Focus on keeping your body healthy for your body type
- Small weight loss matters a lot- a 5 to 15% decrease in weight improves health greatly
- If you are overweight losing 5 to 10 pounds can lower blood pressure

### **Exercise** Regularly

- 150 Minutes a week of moderateintensity aerobic activity e.g. walking briskly, dancing, mowing the lawn, shoot baskets, sweep, mop/vacuum the floors.
- Strength training at least 2xs a week e.g. weight training, using resistance bands, using your body for resistance by doing push-ups, pull-ups, crunches.
- Balance exercises e.g. yoga, tai chi, fit board



#### Don't drink too much!

- Cut back on alcohol use or choose not to drink at all
- Alcohol can increase cancer risk
- Increase risk of liver disease
- Immune system problems
- Brain damage

Moderation is the key

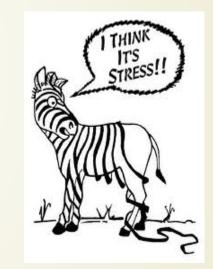
- Standard drink: 12 oz. beer or wine cooler, 5 oz. glass of wine, 1.5 oz. of liquor
- Limit to one drink per day
- Do not drink and drive





Too much stress can lead to serious health problems.

- Increase blood pressure
- Headaches
- Lower immune system
- Digestive disorders
- Alzheimer's disease
- Asthma
- Depression



### Ways to manage Stress

- Exercise
- Don't take on too much- know your limits
- Delegate/ Share responsibilities
- Plan
- Learn what you can control and what you can't
- Let go of what is out of your control
- Limit caffeine
- Laugh
- Call a friend
- Get a massage
- Meditate
- Breathe



# Sleep

7-8 hours per night for most adults can do wonders for their health, mood, and energy levels.

