MGH Psychiatry Guide to Mental Health Resources for COVID-19

(v.03/18/2020)

The unprecedented circumstances surrounding the emergence of COVID-19 have created a great deal of stress and uncertainty for many patients, families, communities and healthcare providers. As resources for addressing these issues proliferate, it can be confusing to find, evaluate, or sort through all of the available information. To address this need for our community, the MGH Department of Psychiatry has put together a curated set of resources with a particular emphasis on materials that will be of use to providers and those they serve. Some of these resources have been developed by members of our department while others are drawn from elsewhere but gathered here and annotated for ease of use.

Note that this guide is a "living document" and may be continually updated over time. The date of last update is given in parentheses in the title of this document. This list of mental health resources is not designed to be exhaustive but rather to highlight and synthesize a selection of high-quality resources to which staff and providers can refer.

This document is also available as a downloadable PDF (if sharing, please use this link): https://drive.google.com/file/d/1P-EQwCqjTHr93fGBk4fqB1sM735390dg/view

How to Use this Guide:

These resources are organized into five domains. Clicking each link will bring you to the relevant section below. Within each section, highly recommended resources are denoted with a star (\star) and practical recommendations or strategies are highlighted in yellow.

- 1. General Mental Health and Coping (p.2)
- 2. Specific Mental Health Conditions (p.5)
- 3. Families/Children (p.6)
- 4. Coping Among Healthcare Workers (p.10)
- 5. Mindfulness and Other Tools (p.12)

FOR GENERAL MENTAL HEALTH & COPING

Summary: In times of stress and uncertainty, a number of strategies can be helpful for maintaining well-being and promoting resilience. The uncertainties and specific restrictions related to the COVID-19 outbreak present particular challenges. For example, recent research has strongly supported two strategies for preventing or mitigating depressive and anxiety-related symptoms: promoting social connectedness and avoiding physical inactivity. In the current environment, necessary restrictions such as social distancing, self-quarantining, and other measures can make this challenging. As such, we may need to be intentional about finding ways to reduce social isolation (for example, through virtual meetings, text and other messaging, phone calls) and find opportunities to engage in regular physical activity.

The resources highlighted below emphasize several evidence-based self-care and coping strategies. In addition to staying connected to others and keeping up physical activity, these include maintaining pillars of well-being such as regular sleep patterns and healthy eating. In addition, limiting excessive exposure to distressing media and practicing stress management techniques such as mindfulness and deep breathing. For those with symptoms of significant stress or impairing anxiety, it is helpful to recommend professional support as needed.

Title	Managing Stress: Tips for Coping with the Stress of COVID-19 ★
Source	Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (Korte et al., PhD)
Link	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FopkiPYKRcyi24FPcgPdRZKAM5y850pp/view
Key points	 Stress-related reactions may include: changes in concentration/thinking/memory; feeling tense/irritable/anxious; changes in energy/appetite/sleep; social withdrawal, reduced productivity, interpersonal conflict. Some individuals may be more susceptible to stress during an outbreak, including those with prior mental health conditions. Coping strategies include: (1) staying connected with family/friends/community in creative ways; (2) manage challenging emotions with acceptance, mindfulness, relaxation, soothing and/or pleasurable activities; (3) avoiding unhelpful coping strategies like substance use, rumination/constant worrying, high-risk behavior; (4) engaging in positive lifestyle behaviors such as physical activity and eating healthy, using acceptance, re-framing, and problem-solving as needed; and (5) practicing sleep hygiene.

Title	Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): Manage Anxiety & Stress ★
Source	Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

Link	https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/managing-stress-anxiety.html
Key points	 Stress-related reactions to an outbreak may include: worry, changes in eating/sleeping, physical symptoms, substance use Coping strategies include: (1) taking media breaks; (2) maintaining healthy behaviors; (3) engaging in relaxing activities; (4) connecting with others. Tailored recommendations for: individuals with pre-existing mental health conditions (includes hotline numbers); parents and children; health responders; quarantined individuals

Title	Mental Health and Psychosocial Considerations During COVID-19 Outbreak
Source	World Health Organization
Link	https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/mental-health-considerations.pdf
Key points	 Tailored guidance for specific groups, including general population; healthcare workers; health facility leaders; caregivers for children; older adults and individuals with underlying health conditions; quarantined individuals General population recommendations: (1) avoiding blame/stigma of others; (2) reducing excessive media exposure and consuming from reputable sources; (3) finding ways to help others and contribute to community during this time; (4) amplifying positive stories and messages; (5) recognizing service efforts of healthcare workers Healthcare worker recommendations: see section below Caregiver recommendations see section below Recommendations for older adults and other vulnerable individuals: (1) accessing simple and clear information; (2) planning ahead where to get practical help like food delivery, transport, medicines; (3) performing simple physical exercises at home; (4) maintaining regular routines where possible Quarantined individuals recommendations: (1) staying connected to social networks virtually (e.g., phone, Internet); (2) acknowledging needs and feelings and maintaining self-care practices during quarantine; (3) limiting excessive media exposure during this time

Title	Coronavirus and Mental Health: Taking Care of Ourselves During Infectious Disease Outbreaks
Source	American Psychiatric Association
Link	https://www.psychiatry.org/news-room/apa-blogs/apa-blog/2020/02/coronavirus-and-mental-health-taking-care-of-ourselves-during-infectious-disease-outbreaks
Key points	Stress-related reactions to an outbreak may include: sleep changes; decreased sense of safety; substance use; physical symptoms; fear and blame

 Coping recommendations include: (1) staying informed via reputable sources; (2) practicing preventive hygiene behaviors; (3) limiting media exposure and correcting misinformation; (4) anticipating and addressing stress reactions via self-care strategies such as daily routines, enjoyable activities, social support, physical activity

Additional Resources:

- 10 Mental Health Tips for Coronavirus Social Distancing (MGH & Partners in Health; Giuseppe Raviola, MD MPH)
 - https://www.pih.org/article/10-mental-health-tips-coronavirus-social-distancing
 - Coping strategies include: (1) maintaining connections despite social distancing; (2) establishing routines; (3) exercising; 4) learning and intellectual engagement; (5) positive family time; (6) focused meditation and relaxation; (7) limiting exposure to internet/TV news; (8) maintaining a sense of humor and avoid catastrophizing; (9) positive self-talk; (10) living in the moment rather than projecting future worries
- Staying Active During COVID-19 (EIM):
 - https://www.exerciseismedicine.org/support_page.php/stories/?b=892
 - Examples of aerobic and muscle-strengthening activities that people can do at home and outside, including walking briskly, dancing to music, following exercise videos, doing squats/lunges. For more concrete ideas/videos, see:
 - https://www.sportengland.org/news/how-stay-active-while-youre-home
- "FACE COVID" (Dr. Russ Harris, author of The Happiness Trap)
 - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1 O8grFdwMDuGVIE RvdRfhHhf6xf3tY8/view
 - Practical steps based on Acceptance & Commitment Therapy: F=focusing on what's in your control; A=acknowledging thoughts & feelings; C=coming back into your body;
 E=engaging in what you're doing; C=committed action; O=opening up; V=values;
 I=identifying resources; D=disinfecting & distancing
- Coping with Coronavirus Anxiety (Harvard Health Blog)
 - https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/coping-with-coronavirus-anxiety-2020031219183
 - Coping strategies include: (1) connecting with loved ones virtually; (2) relying on reputable sources of information; (3) limiting excessive information intake; (4) engaging in preventive hygiene practices; (5) engaging in relaxation via yoga, meditation, or deep breathing, and practicing self-care; (6) asking: Where does anxiety show up in the body? How anxious am I? What do I fear most? What usually helps?
- 7 Science-based Strategies To Cope With Coronavirus Anxiety (The Conversation):
 - https://theconversation.com/7-science-based-strategies-to-cope-with-coronavirus-anxiety
 -133207
 - Coping strategies include: (1) practicing tolerance of uncertainty; (2) accepting and mindfully noticing anxiety, rather than fighting it; (3) connecting to a higher purpose or cause; (4) remembering humans are resilient; (5) not overestimating threat and reducing

excessive media exposure; (6) strengthening self-care and healthy lifestyle practices like sleep, exercise, and relaxation techniques; and (7) seeking professional help as needed.

- Protecting Your Mental Health During the Coronavirus Outbreak (AFSP):
 - https://afsp.org/taking-care-of-your-mental-health-in-the-face-of-uncertainty
 - Coping strategies include: (1) separating what is in your control versus not; (2) doing
 what helps you personally feel a sense of safety; (3) finding chances to be in nature and
 being physically active; (4) practice staying in the present moment with mindfulness; (5)
 connecting with trusted friends and reaching out for professional support if needed
- "Pandemic" (poem reflection on self-quarantine by Lynn Ungar):
 - o http://www.lynnungar.com/poems/pandemic

FOR SPECIFIC MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS

Summary: The stress associated with the currently evolving social disruptions and health-related threats can be particularly challenging for individuals with pre-existing mental health conditions. For example, uncertainty and the threat of infection can exacerbate pre-existing anxiety and worry; the need to minimize disease transmission can amplify contamination fears among those with OCD; and the potential disruption of social connections may contribute to loneliness and isolation that can compound the challenges for those struggling with depression. The resources below provide a range of expert-recommended strategies that may be useful for individuals dealing with or at risk for mental health conditions. In addition to the general self-care/coping strategies described in the prior section, these include specific tips for individuals with existing mental health conditions, including recognizing increased risk, maintaining clinical contact where possible, ensuring adequate medication supply, adapting skills learned in treatment (e.g., exposure) for unique circumstances, and reaching out for professional help as needed.

Title	Coronavirus Anxiety - Helpful Expert Tips and Resources ★
Source	Anxiety & Depression Association of America
Link	https://adaa.org/finding-help/coronavirus-anxiety-helpful-resources
Key points	 Official resources from ADAA News articles with expert commentary on anxiety management and impact What Coronavirus Fears Are Doing To People With Anxiety Disorders https://adaa.org/sites/default/files/Post%20CoronaVirus%20Article%2 0-%20ADAA%20Goodman%2C%20Krystal%2C%20Owens%20Marc

Other key links to WHO, CDC, and NCPTSD resources

Title	Helping Patients Concerned about Coronavirus: A Guide for Psychiatrists
Source	Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress
Link	https://www.cstsonline.org/assets/media/documents/CSTS_FS_Taking_Care_of_Patie_nts_During_Coronavirus_Outbreak_A_Guide_for_Psychiatrists_03_03_2020.pdf
Highlights	 Individual differences may be observed among patients with prior mental health conditions - some may remain stable while others may experience heightened distress during an outbreak. Higher-risk patients include those with delusions, obsessive-compulsive thoughts/behaviors, or a history of trauma. Recommendations for psychiatrists working with these patients include: (1) acknowledging concerns and uncertainty; 2) sharing timely and accurate medical knowledge; 3) working with patients on a plan to reduce stress and maintain healthy behaviors; (4) sustaining clinical contact where possible and ensuring adequate medication supply.

Title	Managing OCD about Coronavirus
Source	Shala Nicely, LPC
Link	https://www.shalanicely.com/aha-moments/managing-ocd-about-coronavirus/
Highlights	Specific tips tailored for individuals with OCD: (1) reducing media-related checking behavior; (2) giving self permission to comply with WHO/CDC guidelines (e.g., handwashing) as an exposure without going beyond; (3) practicing self-compassion and acknowledging anxiety; (4) seeking professional help as needed.

FOR FAMILIES/CHILDREN

Summary: An outbreak can affect the entire family, and special attention to the needs and stressors of children and their caregivers is warranted. Below is a set of expert-recommended resources with practical strategies for parents and other caregivers who are communicating with children about the coronavirus and preparing for family disruptions and challenges. These include specific tips for caregivers on recognizing and validating young people's underlying concerns about safety and daily life, acknowledging own anxieties and self-care needs, discussing information in calm and age-appropriate ways, modeling coping skills and effective hygiene practices, reducing stigma and blame, staying

connected with friends and family, maintaining daily routines and structures where possible and using virtual learning resources as available if homebound.

Talking with Children

Title	7 Ways to Support Kids and Teens Through the Coronavirus Pandemic ★
Source	MGH Clay Center for Healthy Young Minds
Link	http://bit.ly/CC-COVID-19
Highlights	 Three underlying concerns that young people may have during an outbreak include: Am I safe? Are my caregivers safe? How will my daily life be affected? Recommendations for parents include: (1) controlling your own anxiety by accessing reputable information, talking with trusted others, engaging in healthy lifestyle behaviors, acknowledging worry if children ask; (2) talking to your children about what they know about the situation; (3) validating your child's feelings/concerns; (4) being available for questions and providing new information; (5) modeling effective hygiene practices; (6) providing reassurance by pointing to past examples of coping with challenging times; and (7) avoiding blaming of others. Tailoring by developmental stage (preschool/school-age/teenage) is key Spanish language version also available: http://bit.ly/CC-COVID-19-ESP

Title	How to Talk to Your Kids About Coronavirus ★
Source	MGH Clay Center for Healthy Young Minds
Link	https://youtu.be/y81pZO7gaq0
Highlights	 2-minute video presentation of practical strategies Dr. Gene Beresin, director of the MGH Clay Center for Healthy Young Minds, also spoke to Boston25 News about these communication strategies for parents and children during an outbreak: http://bit.ly/25News-COVID19

Title	How Can Parents Talk To Children About COVID-19 And Its Impact? ★
Source	Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Chan School of Public Health
Link	https://www.massgeneral.org/children/infectious-diseases/how-to-talk-to-kids-about-coronavirus

 Dr. Archana Basu, psychologist in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the
MassGeneral Hospital for Children, summarizes how to talk to children about
the coronavirus based on their age and developmental needs.
 Developmentally-specific signs and suggestions are provided for:
infants/toddlers; preschoolers; school-aged children; and adolescents.
 Recommendations for parents include: (1) engaging with children's specific
questions in an age-appropriate way; (2) validating their feelings, providing
realistic assurance, and promoting positive coping like reading together, being
physically active and staying virtually connected with loved ones; (3) balancing
flexibility with maintaining routines; (4) staying informed and clarifying
misconceptions while limiting excessive media use; (5) responding to the
unique needs and differences of each child; (6) helping to reduce blame and
stigma; and (7) engaging in self-care and managing own responses.

Title	Talking With Children About Coronavirus Disease 2019: Messages For Parents, School Staff, And Others Working With Children
Source	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Link	https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/talking-with-children.html
Key points	 General principles for parents, family members, school staff, and other trusted adults when talking with children, include: (1) remaining calm/reassuring; (2) being available to listen and talk; (3) avoiding blame/stigma; (4) reducing excessive media exposure; (5) providing truthful and age-appropriate information; (6) teaching effective hygiene practices, including handwashing. Simple language examples are provided for discussing: What is COVID-19? What can be done to prevent/avoid getting COVID-19? What happens if you are sick with COVID-19?

Title	Talking to Children About COVID-19 (Coronavirus): A Parent Resource
Source	National Association of School Psychologists
Link	https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-(coronavirus)-a-parent-resource (PDF available)
Key points	 Specific guidelines for parents of school-aged children include: (1) remaining calm and reassuring; (2) being available to discuss and providing ongoing affection; (3) avoiding blame of others; (4) limiting excessive media exposure and clarifying misconceptions; (5) maintaining normal routines where possible; (6) providing accurate information; (7) recognizing symptoms of infection; (8) modeling effective hygiene practices such as handwashing and covering

mouth when sneezing; (9) communicating with school around rules/practices and any symptoms.

- Talking to Kids About the Coronavirus (Child Mind Institute):
 - https://childmind.org/article/talking-to-kids-about-the-coronavirus/
- How to Talk to Your Anxious Child or Teen About Coronavirus (ADAA):
 - https://adaa.org/learn-from-us/from-the-experts/blog-posts/consumer/how-talk-your-anxio us-child-or-teen-about

Family Preparedness

Title	Self-Care for Resilience Toolkit ★
Source	MGH Clay Center for Healthy Young Minds
Link	https://www.mghclaycenter.org/self-care
Highlights	 Short videos on resilience skills for middle school students; high-school students; and college students (with accompanying "Self-Care Classroom Activity Toolkit" for download) Short videos on modeling self-care for moms; dads; adaptations for younger children; and barriers/challenges Self-care strategies for parents, including: (1) prioritizing time for own needs; (2) setting priorities; (3) planning enjoyable or restorative activities; (4) accepting and identifying support from others https://www.mghclaycenter.org/parenting-concerns/10-self-care-tips-for-parents/11 Self-care strategies for young people, including: (1) engaging in mindfulness; (2) doing yoga and other exercises; (3) getting enough sleep; (4) creatively expressing self; (5) communicating with friends, though sometimes disconnecting; (6) practicing community service and giving to others. https://www.mghclaycenter.org/parenting-concerns/11-self-care-tips-for-teens-and-young-adults/

Title	Parenting Through Community Crises & Disasters ★
Source	MGH Marjorie E. Korff PACT (Parenting at a Challenging Time) Program
Link	https://www.mghpact.org/for-parents/parenting-through-community-crises/
Key points	Video and written materials intended to assist parents and educators as they face challenges that impact children in our communities

Title	Parent/Caregiver Guide to Helping Families Cope With the Coronavirus Disease
Source	National Child Traumatic Stress Network
Link	https://www.nctsn.org/sites/default/files/resources/fact-sheet/outbreak_factsheet_1.pdf
Key points	 Extensive tips for parents and families including: (1) preparing by holding family discussions, identifying resources, making plans for staying in contact with friends and family; (2) practicing and modeling preventive hygiene behaviors; (3) engaging in coping strategies like staying informed, seeking social support, expressing and validating feelings; (4) keeping schedule/routine as much as possible and planning meaningful activities Tailored symptoms and recommendations based on developmental stages, including: preschool; school-age; adolescent children

- Helping Homebound Children during the COVID-19 Outbreak (CSTS):
 - https://www.cstsonline.org/assets/media/documents/CSTS_FS_Helping_Homebound_Ch
 ildren_during_COVID19_Outbreak.pdf
 - Specific recommendations for homebound children, including (1) supporting family structure with planned activities, routines, and chore participation; (2) communicating openly with children; (3) connecting to helpful supports and friends/family, and using homeschooling/distance learning resources if available
- Taking Care of Your Family During Coronavirus and Other Emerging Infectious Disease Outbreaks (CSTS):
 - https://www.cstsonline.org/assets/media/documents/CSTS_FS_Corona_Taking_Care_of_ Your_Family.pdf.pdf
 - General recommendations for (1) practicing preventive hygiene as a family; (2) staying calm by using coping strategies; and (3) involving children in family health care by discussing information in an age-appropriate way, modeling health behaviors and discussing family health habits, and managing misconceptions

FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

Summary: Many healthcare workers are on the front lines for managing a COVID-19 outbreak. Whether due to increased job demands, coping with unusual circumstances, and/or fears of contagion to self and others, an outbreak could have a profound impact on mental health and the ability to remain effective in rapidly evolving situations, while increasing the risk of distress, anxiety, and burnout. Several resources have been developed specifically to highlight the mental health needs of healthcare workers. The resources below highlight several recommended strategies for healthcare workers including: preparing for heightened demands during an outbreak and monitoring own stress/wellbeing, and engaging in self-care/coping strategies (including general tips above) but also: checking in regularly

with family/friends/colleagues, pacing work and taking mini-breaks where possible*, avoid overworking or ignoring personal needs, and connecting to a sense of purpose and service.

*Note that a number of <u>mindfulness apps have been made freely available</u> especially for healthcare providers during this time.

Title	Managing Healthcare Workers' Stress Associated with the COVID-19 Virus Outbreak ★
Source	National Center for PTSD
Link	https://www.ptsd.va.gov/covid/COVID_healthcare_workers.asp
Key points	 Heightened demands for healthcare workers during an outbreak include: increased workload; potential separation from family/friends; fears about infection to self and others; stigma. Preparedness can reduce stress among healthcare workers managing an outbreak. Specific training in outbreak-related protocols and communication/planning among staff can increase self-efficacy. Self-care strategies include: (1) self-monitoring/pacing; (2) checking in regularly with family/friends/colleagues; (3) taking self-care breaks for relaxation and stress reduction; (4) practicing healthy self-talk and calibrating realistic appraisals of threat; (5) balancing acceptance vs. control; (6) connecting to hope and patience; (7) avoiding unhelpful coping strategies like substance use or ignoring personal needs by overworking.

Title	Sustaining the Well-Being of Healthcare Personnel during Coronavirus and other Infectious Disease Outbreaks ★
Source	Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress
Link	https://www.cstsonline.org/assets/media/documents/CSTS_FS_Sustaining_Well_Being_ Healthcare_Personnel_during.pdf.pdf
Key points	 Unique demands faced by healthcare workers during an outbreak include increased work demands; fears of infection; limited or uncomfortable equipment; and managing patient distress and own emotions. Recommendations include: (1) meeting basic needs and taking breaks; (2) connecting with colleagues and loved ones, and using constructive communication; (3) staying updated while limiting media exposure; (4) checking in with needs and wellbeing and honoring service efforts

Title	Coronavirus and Mental Health: Taking Care of Ourselves During Infectious Disease Outbreaks
Source	American Psychiatric Association
Link	https://www.psychiatry.org/news-room/apa-blogs/apa-blog/2020/02/coronavirus-and-mental-health-taking-care-of-ourselves-during-infectious-disease-outbreaks
Key points	 Specific stressors for healthcare workers include: potential equipment and staffing shortages; fears of infection to self and others; managing patients who may also be in distress; stigma. Recommendations for healthcare workers include: (1) self-monitoring for signs of stress; (2) prioritizing basic needs like eating and sleeping; (3) taking self-care breaks; (4) staying connected with family/friends/colleagues; (5) accessing reliable sources of information; and (6) honoring the service performed by self and other healthcare workers

Title	Mental Health and Psychosocial Considerations During COVID-19 Outbreak
Source	World Health Organization
Link	https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/mental-health-considerations.pdf
Key points	 Managing mental health is just as vital as physical health during an outbreak. Recommendations for healthcare workers include: (1) resting between shifts; (2) maintaining positive lifestyle behaviors such as physical activity and eating healthy; (3) staying connected to family/friends and sharing with trusted colleagues; (4) leveraging coping strategies that have worked well in the past; (5) avoiding substance use and other unhelpful strategies; (6) be prepared for working with patients in distress or exacerbated mental health conditions

Other Resources:

- Mental Health Care For Medical Staff In China During The COVID-19 Outbreak
 - $\circ \quad \underline{\text{https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpsy/article/PIIS2215-0366(20)30078-X/fulltext}}\\$
 - Key measures for healthcare workers managing COVID-19 in China included: (1) establishing temporary resting places away from home with food and other supplies; (2) sharing videos to share with family members while separated; (3) preparing for responding to patient distress; (4) training in medical equipment use; (5) relaxation and stress management; (6) supportive listening interventions for healthcare workers by trained counselors.

MINDFULNESS AND OTHER TOOLS

Mindfulness

Title	Guided Mindfulness Meditations from Headspace (App)
Source	Headspace
Link	https://www.headspace.com/health-covid-19
Key points	Free access to Headspace Plus is now available for US healthcare and public health professionals through 2020. You're here for them, we're here for you. We're offering all US healthcare professionals, who work in public health settings, free access to Headspace Plus through 2020.

Title	Coronavirus Sanity Guide (Website with Videos/App)
Source	Ten Percent Happier
Link	https://www.tenpercent.com/coronavirussanityguide
Key points	 Resources on this webpage include: guided meditations, podcasts, blog posts, and talks focused on managing coronavirus-related stress and anxiety. These resources will be updated over time. Dr. Luana Marquez of the MGH Center for Anxiety and Traumatic Stress Disorders program is interviewed with other experts for a 1-hour podcast, sharing practical tips for "How to Manage Coronavirus Anxiety": https://radiopublic.com/ten-percent-happier-with-dan-harr-WwE9m8/s1!509f1 Guided meditations include: centering/grounding for coronavirus responders; relaxation; self-compassion; and finding ease. Talks include: handwashing mindfully; caring for others during time of coronavirus; coping with anxiety; releasing fear; etc. Free access to Ten Percent Happier app is now available for healthcare workers

FREE ACCESS FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS

We want to deeply thank and recognize healthcare workers all over the world who are responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. If you are a healthcare worker and are not currently subscribed to Ten Percent Happier, we would like to support you by offering free access to the app – please email care@tenpercent.com for instructions.

Title	Mindfulness Resources from Calm (Website with Recordings)
Source	Calm
Link	https://www.calm.com/blog/take-a-deep-breath
Key points	Curated free recordings include: soothing meditations for mindfulness and self-compassion; sleep meditations; calm music; relaxing soundscapes; mindful movement exercises; mindfulness for kids; daily mindfulness activity calendars; journaling resources; ideas for social connection

Positive Emotions

Title	Positive Psychology Exercises (App)
Source	MGH Center for Addiction Medicine
Link	https://scholar.harvard.edu/bettina.hoeppner/sis
Key points	 Dr. Bettina Hoeppner's team at the MGH Center for Addiction Medicine has developed a freely available app that engages users in daily positive psychology exercises focused on noticing and fully engaging with positive experiences even amid life challenges. While this app was originally developed to support smoking cessation (for scientific validation, see this paper), the happiness exercises can be used as a stand-alone module (simply tap "Happiness" on the homepage of the app) and can be used by all. Positive psychology exercises focus on noticing kindness (e.g., teachers putting together homeschool tools); doing kind things (e.g., leaving toilet paper in the shelf for the next person to buy); savoring (e.g., taking 5 minutes to sit in the sunshine); reliving positive experiences (e.g., looking at photos and recalling joyful events); and noticing good things that are also happening (e.g., whole communities engaging in social distancing for the greater good).

