

ADULT HEALTH BULLETIN



DECEMBER 2023

Download this and past issues of the Adult, Youth, Parent, and Family Caregiver Health Bulletins:
<http://fcs-hes.ca.uky.edu/content/health-bulletins>

THIS MONTH'S TOPIC:

THE GIFT OF HEALTH



Perhaps you are familiar with the holiday tune that describes 12 Christmas gifts, but a gift worth giving that is not included in the song is good health!

As you prepare to host or attend holiday functions this season, here are 12 tips to staying safe and healthy yourself, and not passing along germs for family and friends:

- 1. Wash your hands:** Use soap and warm water when possible and alcohol-based hand sanitizer when out and about.
- 2. Eat well-balanced meals:** Making healthy food choices most of the time helps to offset occasional treats that may be less nutritious.

Continued on the next page 



Ways to keep moving include taking a family walk, having a dance party, and enjoying an outdoor winter activity like ice skating.



➔ **Continued from the previous page**

- 3. Keep moving:** Find creative ways to incorporate movement into your daily routine, take a family walk, have a dance party, or enjoy an outdoor winter activity like ice skating.
- 4. Stay warm:** Dress for outdoor weather in layers, with an outer layer to keep you dry.
- 5. Practice food safety:** Wash hands and cooking surfaces, cook foods to proper temperatures, avoid cross-contaminating cooked and uncooked foods, serve foods hot or cold, and refrigerate uneaten food promptly.
- 6. Prevent house fires:** Never leave an open flame (candle, fireplace, stove, or heater) unattended, install smoke detectors, and replace their batteries twice a year.
- 7. Manage stress:** Holiday events and spending can cause stress. Make a plan that keeps your finances and calendar from becoming overburdened.
- 8. Limit alcohol** consumption, and do not drink and drive.
- 9. Get routine health screenings:** Holiday breaks from work may be a good time to schedule annual exams that can get put off throughout the year.

- 10. Sleep:** Adults need between seven to nine hours of sleep per night. Lack of sleep can compromise your immune function and decrease your mental clarity.
- 11. Stay up to date on vaccines:** You can prevent many serious diseases by getting routine vaccines. Ask your health-care provider what vaccines you should get.
- 12. Avoid smoking and tobacco products:** Secondhand smoke and vaping products also have negative health outcomes.

Being mindful of healthy habits will help keep you and your loved ones feeling good throughout the season, which is always a reason to celebrate.

REFERENCE:

<https://tools.cdc.gov/medialibrary/index.aspx#/media/id/303214>

**ADULT
HEALTH BULLETIN**

Written by:
Katherine Jury, MS
Edited by: Alyssa Simms
Designed by: Rusty Manseau
Stock images:
Adobe Stock

