



Tips for managing anxiety with Covid-19 (Corona virus)



Self-care

Introduce activities/times to help you relax and reduce any anxiety/worry. This might be a home workout, having a bath, cooking, cleaning, organising areas of your house, watching TV, DIY projects, anything that you enjoy and find pleasure in!



Routine

We are all used to routine, be that going to work or school or getting up at particular times. If you are now working from home, in self-isolation or home-schooling children, try and create a routine or plan each day as it comes. Allow yourself rest breaks, keep a lunch break, and be more flexible in putting in activities like watching the tv and doing household activities.

Social media

For some social media is highly important in keeping connected and in touch with family/friends/vulnerable people. But it can also be a source escalating your worry. Consider whether it might be better to reduce social media use, perhaps by time (10 minutes at a time) or only at certain times of the day (when taking work/school breaks).



*This is not an exhaustive list but just some suggestions that may be helpful!
Please keep up to date with government guidance and take care of yourselves.*



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Time and space

Give yourself a space to worry: It is natural and normal to worry, particularly in times of crisis, however this can get the better of us. You could consider planning small time frames where you allow yourself to worry, or use a form of expression (e.g. writing, art or talking) to let out these thoughts. Giving yourself a space to allow this can help contain worry so that it does not feel all consuming all of the time.

Exercise

Exercise helps to manage anxiety and releases some of the anxious energy in the body. YouTube has loads of workouts you can do at home, try the body coach, search for home workouts, home yoga or any home alternative to the exercise you enjoy! Follow the guidance from the government.



Support

If you have existing mental health problems reach out to your support network and professional if you have one. If these feelings are new also reach out to people that you find supportive. Many people are feeling the same way and it will help you to feel less alone. You can share your own tips for staying calm and managing the situation. If you don't feel that you have support you can text SHOUT for free from most UK mobiles, check out their website "giveusashout.org" for more information.



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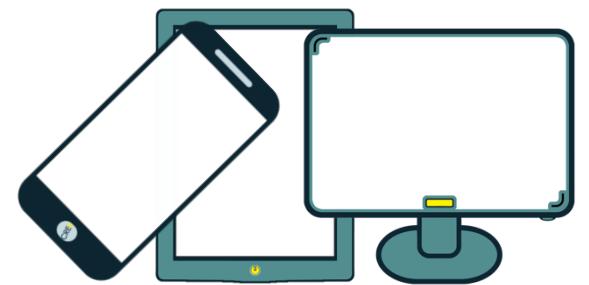
What is positive wellbeing?

It is a state of overall good health in both body and mind and can include:

- ✓ **Intellectual** (cognitive stimulation such as problem solving puzzles),
- ✓ **Spiritual** (understanding sense of purpose and beyond your own existence, can be through prayer or exploration of a higher power, etc)
- ✓ **Social** (building relationships and community support through friends and family and neighbours etc.)
- ✓ **Physical** (Movement, whether in sports or walking, movement that brings joy.)

11 TOP TIPS FOR POSITIVE WELLBEING WHEN YOU ARE OFF SCHOOL

Taking breaks from technology. It can create strain on the eyes, disrupt sleep, overstimulate your brain and normally technology is linked to a lack of movement.



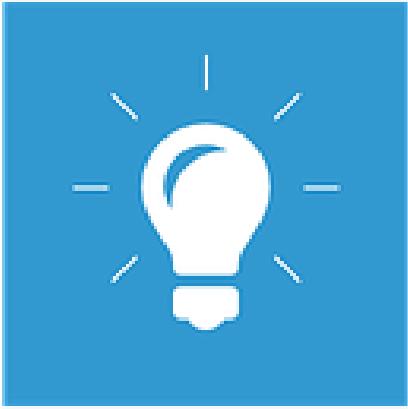
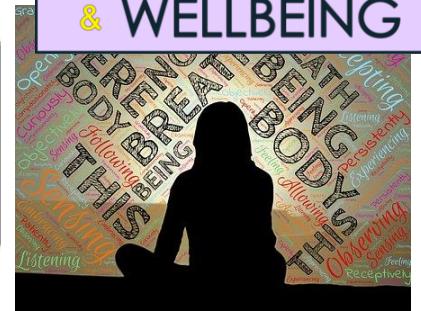
Spend time outside in nature. Nature is healing, going to your local park or green space and taking a walk is a great way to destress. .

Spend time with people who support you. Social interaction and a strong network of support is important for mental health, sharing problems and building social skills



Eat fresh fruit and vegetables daily. Food helps to build and nourish your body, it provides energy and helps you when you're not feeling well. Aim for at least 5 portions daily.

Breathing exercise. Practice breathing slowly into your stomach, through your nose and out slowly to calm down nervousness. Left and right nostril breathing is all good for enhancing these effects.



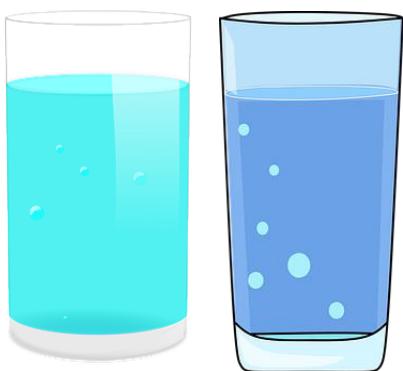
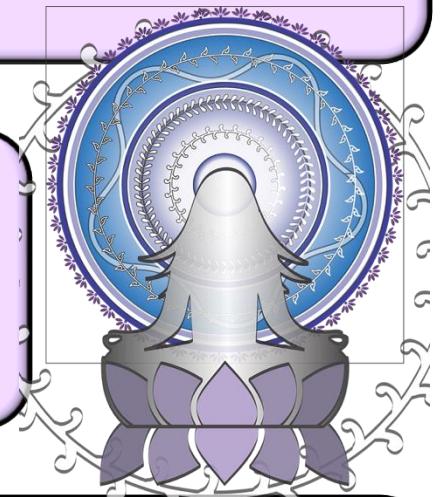
Find a creative activity. Finding a way to expressive yourself through your chosen form of art from acting, playing an instrument, art, writing short stories or poems is great for relaxing and spending time away from technology.

Limit phone time. Social Media can be a very negative environment and hyperfiltered which can distort how we see and feel about ourselves. Breaks are a good reminder that social media is a filtered highlight reel, not real life.



Talk about your problems. They can seem much worse in your head, especially if you don't talk about them and let them build up. Find someone you can trust.

Meditation. Close your eyes for a few minutes each day and just focus on breathing. You don't need to anything else but witness your thoughts and feelings.



Drink plenty of water. We are over 70% water and dehydration can cause low energy amongst other undesirable symptoms

Write your feelings on paper. Keeping a journal, can help ease a troubled mind when you're not ready to talk about what is bothering you.

