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### **Resolutions for a Healthy New Year**

New Year's Day always offers the opportunity to hit pause, reflect on our lives and set goals to improve our health and well-being. For many of us, this involves making promises to eat healthier and lose weight. Here's some advice from Stanford Medicine to help you keep those resolutions.

People often jump in too hard, too fast when creating New Year's resolutions. When considering health and weight loss-related goals make sure they are realistic and sustainable. And have a plan!

Find **one thing** you can improve. It may be something obvious, such as not drinking a soda every day. Or, you may want to make healthy habits more sustainable, such as, bringing your lunch to work so you can lose weight and save money. Those who already eat well and exercise regularly may want to adopt a goal on a larger scope and learn to cook or try a new form of exercise.

Begin with just one thing (just one!) and make sure it is SMART – specific, measurable, achievable, results-focused and time-bound. A SMART goal would be something like, "I will walk for 15 minutes on 3 days for one week." Or, "I will prepare one new healthy recipe each week for the month of January."

Life is busy and it isn't going to stop. That's why it's imperative to create realistic goals and increase your awareness about what you're eating. And have a plan!

Sometimes we think we don't have enough time, but if we plan ahead then we can set ourselves up for success.

On the weekend, go to the grocery store and buy five days worth of healthy snacks — nuts, yogurt, fruit, vegetables, nut butter, etc. —and take them into work on Monday. When you're cooking healthy dinner, make two or three extra servings for lunch or dinner the next day.

We are always going to be busy. Stocking your fridge and prepping foods when you have time will make life much easier and make eating healthy a sustainable habit.

There may be days that you don't meet your goal. Acknowledge that and move on. Every day is a new chance to start over, so return to your healthy lifestyle immediately.

## Here are some **SMART** ideas to consider:

- Bring your lunch to work Monday-Thursday for the entire month of January
- Eat five fist-sized servings of vegetables or fruit every day for the next week
- Walk for 30 minutes 5 times a week for the month of January
- Go to sleep at the same time every night and wake up at the same time every morning for the month of January
- Do 30 minutes of weight training three times a week for the next 2 weeks
- Use a tracking app (such as myfitnesspal) and record what you eat every day for 5 days









#### Cervical Health Awareness Month

January is Cervical Health Awareness Month. It's important to be aware of what you can do to prevent cervical cancer.

Having your well-woman visit with a gynecologist each year and having a pap test can catch pre-cancerous changes and prevent them from developing into cancer.

HPV (human papillomavirus) is a major cause of cervical cancer. It is a very common infection that spreads through sexual activity.

About 79 million Americans currently have HPV, but many people with HPV don't know they are infected.

- The HPV vaccine (shot) can prevent HPV.
- Parents are encouraged to talk to their pediatrician about pre-teens getting the HPV vaccine at age 11 or 12
  both boys and girls
- Teens and young adults should talk to their doctors if they didn't get the vaccine as pre-teens. Women up to age 26 and men up to age 21 can still get the vaccine
- Cervical cancer can often be prevented with regular screening tests (called Pap tests) and follow-up care.
- Women are encouraged to start getting regular Pap tests at age 21



Other risk factors for developing cervical cancer include:

- Smoking
- Immunosuppression (from disease or drugs)
- Chlamydia infection
- A diet low in fruits and vegetables
- Being overweight
- Long term use of oral contraceptives (longer than 5 years)



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