



# HealthTALK

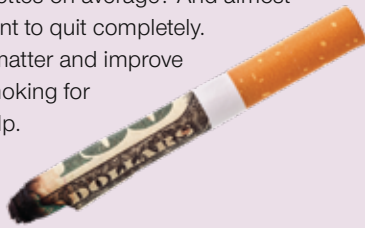
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FALL 2020



## Plan to quit.

Did you know that people who smoke a pack a day spend more than \$2,000 a year on cigarettes on average? And almost 70% of smokers say they want to quit completely. Save money for things that matter and improve your health. You can quit smoking for good today with the right help. Resources are available at [quitnow.net](http://quitnow.net).




iStock.com: zoom-zoom

## Mammograms save lives.

### Don't be afraid of this screening.

Many women with breast cancer have no symptoms. This is why regular breast cancer screenings are so important. A mammogram is an X-ray of the breast used to check for breast cancer. Women should get one every 2 years starting at age 50.

You may have heard that having a mammogram can be uncomfortable. During the X-ray, you may feel some pressure or pain as 2 plates flatten your breast. But getting checked is fast, and any discomfort is over quickly. Don't be afraid to schedule your screening. It can save your life!

 **Schedule your screening.** If you have any concerns about getting a mammogram, give us a call toll-free at **1-866-675-1607, TTY 711**, Monday–Friday, 7 a.m.–7 p.m. We can also help with scheduling an appointment or finding a provider.

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Louisiana  
P.O. Box 31341  
Salt Lake City, UT 84131-0341



## Telehealth visits.

You may have concerns when it comes to visiting your doctor in person these days. But it's important to continue to meet with a health care provider and stay on top of your health. Scheduling a telehealth visit can help you do this from the safety and comfort of your home. You may also be able to meet with a provider online for urgent needs 24 hours a day, 7 days week.

### What is telehealth?

Telehealth is a visit with a provider using a computer, tablet or phone instead of going into the doctor's office. Ask your provider if they offer telehealth services. Telehealth can be a good option for:

- Asking questions about your symptoms.
- Getting advice to help manage your condition(s).
- Getting medicines prescribed and sent to your pharmacy.

If you're not sure if a telehealth visit is the best option for you, call NurseLine first to get advice at no cost to you. Nurses are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Just call **1-877-440-9409**, **TTY 711**, toll-free.



## Take care of your mental health.

It's perfectly natural to feel anxious, stressed or frustrated when there is uncertainty in your life. Here are 5 tips for how to cope during stressful times.

- 1. Establish a routine.** Come up with a way to structure your days. Set up a plan for exercise, connecting with others and doing daily tasks.
- 2. Try a relaxing activity.** Find things that help you manage your stress. Try deep breathing, stretching or meditation. Drawing or coloring can also be calming.
- 3. Stay connected.** It's OK to turn to friends, family or health care providers for emotional or other support. Use technology to stay in touch. Use video chat to "see" people if you can't meet up in person.
- 4. Set boundaries.** While it's important to have up-to-date, reliable information, you should limit your time watching and reading the news if it makes you feel anxious.
- 5. Keep up with healthy habits.** Your physical health is an important part of your mental health. Avoid using tobacco, alcohol or other drugs as a way to manage stress. Get plenty of rest and physical activity.



**Take care.** Find articles, self-care tools, caring providers, and more mental health and substance use resources at **LiveandWorkWell.com**. You can also call our toll-free help line at **1-866-342-6892**, **TTY 711**.

# Test your COVID-19 and flu IQ.

## Know the myths and facts.

We're challenging UnitedHealthcare Community Plan members to a game of trivia in Trivia Outbreak, a free online game. You can earn a high score with your knowledge of entertainment, sports, history and more. First, test your knowledge of flu and COVID-19 myths below. Then visit [TriviaOutbreak.myuhc.com](https://www.myuhc.com/triviaoutbreak) to play the online game.

### True or False?

- 1** COVID-19 mainly spreads through contact with surfaces.

**False.** COVID-19 is mainly spread from person to person. It spreads through respiratory droplets that travel through the air when people sneeze, cough or talk.

- 2** If I got a flu shot last year, I still need to get one this year.

**True.** Your immune protection from the flu vaccine decreases over time. Everyone aged 6 months and older should get a flu shot each year.

As fall and winter approach, it's important not to forget about the seasonal flu. Be sure to get your flu shot this season. Getting your flu shot helps protect you and your community from getting sick.

- 3** To be effective, you need to wash your hands for at least 20 seconds.

**True.** Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds every time you return home from a public place. Also wash your hands after blowing your nose, sneezing or coughing. Try singing "Happy Birthday" in your head from beginning to end twice while you wash your hands. This will ensure you spend at least 20 seconds washing.

- 4** Hand sanitizer works better than traditional soap because it has alcohol in it.

**False.** Handwashing is the gold standard. It is more effective than hand sanitizer at removing and killing viruses and germs on your hands. Consider hand sanitizer a portable option for times when you don't have access to soap and water.



**It's your best shot.** There is no cost to you for flu shots. You can get one at your primary care provider's (PCP's) office or any clinic or pharmacy that accepts your plan. Visit [myuhc.com/CommunityPlan](https://www.myuhc.com/CommunityPlan) to find a location near you.



## Resource corner.

**Member Services:** Find a doctor, ask benefit questions or get help scheduling an appointment, in any language (toll-free).

**1-866-675-1607, TTY 711**

**Monday–Friday, 7 a.m.–7 p.m.**

**Our website:** Find a provider, view your benefits or see your ID card, wherever you are.

**[myuhc.com/CommunityPlan](https://myuhc.com/CommunityPlan)**

**NurseLine:** Get health advice from a nurse 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (toll-free).

**1-877-440-9409, TTY 711**

**Quit For Life®:** Get free help quitting smoking (toll-free).

**1-866-784-8454, TTY 711**

**[quitnow.net](https://quitnow.net)**

**Healthy First Steps®:** Get support throughout your pregnancy. Get rewards for timely prenatal and well-baby care (toll-free).

**1-800-599-5985, TTY 711**

**[UHCHealthyFirstSteps.com](https://UHCHealthyFirstSteps.com)**

**Live and Work Well:** Find articles, self-care tools, caring providers, and more mental health and substance use resources.

**[LiveandWorkWell.com](https://LiveandWorkWell.com)**

### **Substance Use Disorder Helpline:**

This is a confidential and no-cost service available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (toll-free).

**1-855-780-5955, TTY 711**

### **Mental Illness and Addiction Crisis Line:**

Help is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (toll-free).

**1-866-675-1607, TTY 711**

**Prefer email or text?** Call Member Services toll-free and give us your email address to receive emails, and your mobile phone number to receive texts, from UnitedHealthcare. Your permission is required to receive emails and texts.

**1-866-675-1607, TTY 711**

**Monday–Friday, 7 a.m.–7 p.m.**



## Pasta party.

### Try this delicious recipe.

Make pasta for dinner with this family-friendly recipe. Add wagon wheels and easy ingredients like frozen spinach and nuts, and you can't go wrong. This recipe serves 6 (and you will likely have leftovers).

#### Ingredients.

- 1 pound wagon wheel pasta (can be substituted for other shapes and/or gluten-free pasta)
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 3 tablespoons garlic, thinly sliced (8–10 cloves)
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon crushed red pepper
- 1 pound frozen spinach (defrosted)
- ½ cup Parmesan cheese, freshly grated
- 2 tablespoons pine nuts, toasted (if pine nuts aren't available, try almonds or cashews)

#### Instructions.

1. Cook the pasta according to the package.
2. If using raw nuts, spread them in a single layer on a microwave-safe plate. Microwave on full power for 1 minute. Stir nuts and continue microwaving in 30-second periods until nuts are golden brown. This can be done in advance.
3. While the pasta is cooking, heat olive oil over medium heat in a large skillet. Add garlic, salt and crushed red pepper. Cook until the garlic starts to turn golden, about 3 minutes.
4. Add the spinach and combine until heated through.
5. While heating the spinach, drain the pasta and reserve 1 cup of the pasta cooking liquid. Put the hot pasta water into the pan, add the drained pasta and stir to combine. Top with Parmesan cheese and toasted nuts.

Nutrition (per serving): 313 calories, 12g protein, 46g carbohydrates (4g fiber), 9g fat (2g sat fat, 7g mono/poly), 268mg sodium

# COVID-19



## Important Message from UnitedHealthcare on Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Your health and wellbeing is our number one priority. That's why we want to make sure you stay informed about Coronavirus (COVID-19). We're working with and following the latest information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). We're also in touch with state and local public health departments. For the most up-to-date information and resources about prevention, coverage, care and support please visit [UHCCommunityPlan.com/covid-19](https://UHCCommunityPlan.com/covid-19).

## How can I protect myself from COVID-19?

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. As with any potential illness, like the flu, it is important to follow good prevention practices, including:

- Hand washing with soap and water for 20 seconds or use of alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Do not touch your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Try to stay away from people who might be sick.
- Do not share cups or eating utensils with people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect often touched surfaces.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, and then throw the tissue in the trash.
- While a flu shot does not stop COVID-19, it's still good to protect yourself against the flu. Contact your primary care provider and schedule your flu shot.

## Stay informed on the latest advice:

- For the most updated information about COVID-19, visit the CDC's COVID-19 page [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov)



## Five steps to wash your hands the right way

Handwashing is one of the best ways to protect yourself and your family from getting sick. During the COVID-19 pandemic, keeping hands clean is especially important to help prevent the virus from spreading.

Washing your hands is easy, and it's one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of germs. Clean hands can stop germs from spreading from one person to another and throughout an entire community—from your home and workplace to childcare facilities and hospitals.

### Follow these five steps every time

1. Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.
2. Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
3. Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the “Happy Birthday” song from beginning to end twice.
4. Rinse your hands well under clean, running water.
5. Dry your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

Learn more about regular handwashing at [cdc.gov/handwashing](https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing).



UnitedHealthcare Community Plan does not treat members differently because of sex, age, race, color, disability or national origin.

If you think you were treated unfairly because of your sex, age, race, color, disability or national origin, you can send a complaint to:

Civil Rights Coordinator  
UnitedHealthcare Civil Rights Grievance  
P.O. Box 30608  
Salt Lake City, UTAH 84130  
**UHC\_Civil\_Rights@uhc.com**

You must send the complaint within 60 days of when you found out about it. A decision will be sent to you within 30 days. If you disagree with the decision, you have 15 days to ask us to look at it again.

If you need help with your complaint, please call the toll-free member phone number listed on your health plan member ID card, TTY 711, Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

You can also file a complaint with the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services.

**Online:**

<https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf>

Complaint forms are available at

<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html>

**Phone:**

Toll-free **1-800-368-1019, 1-800-537-7697** (TDD)

**Mail:**

U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue SW  
Room 509F, HHH Building  
Washington, D.C. 20201

If you need help with your complaint, please call the toll-free member phone number listed on your member ID card.

We provide free services to help you communicate with us. Such as, letters in other languages or large print. Or, you can ask for an interpreter. To ask for help, please call the toll-free member phone number listed on your health plan member ID card, TTY 711, Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.