

- f* Concern about being able to effectively care for children or others in your care
- f* Uncertainty or frustration about how long you will need to remain in this situation, and uncertainty about the future
- f* Loneliness associated with feeling cut off from the world and from loved ones
- f* Anger if you think you were exposed to the disease because of others' negligence
- f* Boredom and frustration because you may not be able to work or engage in regular day-to-day activities
- f* Uncertainty or ambivalence about the situation
- f* A desire to use alcohol or drugs to cope
- f* Symptoms of depression, such as feelings of hopelessness, changes in appetite, or sleeping too little or too much
- f* Symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), such as intrusive distressing memories, flashbacks (reliving the event), nightmares, changes in thoughts and mood, and being easily startled

If you or a loved one experience any of these reactions for 2 to 4 weeks or more, contact your health care provider or one of the resources at the end of this tip sheet.

Ways To Support Yourself During Social Distancing, Quarantine, and Isolation

UNDERSTAND THE RISK

Consider the real risk of harm to yourself and others around you. The public perception of risk during a situation such as an infectious disease outbreak is often inaccurate. Media coverage may create the impression that people are in immediate danger when really the risk for infection may be very low. Take steps to get the facts:

- f* Stay up to date on what is happening, while limiting your media exposure. Avoid watching or listening to news reports 24/7 since this tends to increase anxiety and worry. Remember that children are especially affected by what they hear and see on television.
- f* Look to credible sources for information on the infectious disease outbreak (see page 3 for sources of reliable outbreak-related information).

BE YOUR OWN ADVOCATE

Speaking out about your needs is particularly important if you are in quarantine, since you may not be in a hospital or other facility where your basic needs are met. Ensure you have what you need to feel safe, secure, and comfortable.

- f* Work with local, state, or national health officials to find out how you can arrange for groceries and toiletries to be delivered to your home as needed.
- f* Inform health care providers or health authorities of any needed medications and work with them to ensure that you continue to receive those medications.

EDUCATE YOURSELF

Health care providers and health authorities should provide information on the disease, its diagnosis, and treatment.

- f* Do not be afraid to ask questions—clear communication with a health care provider

f Provide your employer with a clear explanation of why you are away from work.

f Contact the U.S. Department of Labor toll-free at 1-866-4USWAGE -uavmc7-9243)rk.

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- f* Talk about your experiences and feelings to loved ones and friends, if you find it helpful.
- f* Maintain a sense of hope and positive thinking; consider keeping a journal where you write down things you are grateful for or that are going well.

After Social Distancing, Quarantine, or Isolation

You may experience mixed emotions, including a sense of relief. If you were isolated because you had the illness, you may feel sadness or anger because friends and loved ones may have unfounded fears of contracting the disease from contact with you, even though you have been determined not to be contagious.

The best way to end this common fear is to learn about the disease and the actual risk to others. Sharing this information will often calm fears in others and allow you to reconnect with them.

If you or your loved ones experience symptoms of extreme stress—such as trouble sleeping, problems with eating too much or too little, inability to carry out routine daily activities, or using drugs or alcohol to cope—speak to a health care provider or call one of the hotlines listed to the right for a referral.

If you are feeling overwhelmed with emotions such as sadness, depression, anxiety, or feelings like you want to harm yourself or someone else, call 911 or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255).

Helpful Resources

Hotlines

SAMHSA's Disaster Distress Helpline