

JANUARY  
2022

## FIND YOUR word of the year

While New Year's resolutions might be popular, they often don't last past January. This year, skip the resolutions and try a word of the year instead.

A word of the year is a single word that serves as a guide or theme for what you would like to focus on this year. Examples include joy, passion, fearless, and courage.

Here's a process to find your word:

- Reflect on what you hope the upcoming year will look like.
- Ask yourself some questions:
  - This time next year, what do I want to have achieved?
  - What do I want more or less of in my life?
  - How do I want to spend my time?
  - What aspects of myself do I need to nourish?
- Brainstorm a list of words.
- Narrow it down to two or three that most resonate with you.
- Give yourself a week or two to reflect on your shortlist and then choose one word as your word of the year.

# Do detox diets work?

Detox or cleansing diets are a popular way to make a change and cut calories quickly. But, do they really work?

## HOW DO DETOX DIETS WORK?

Detox diets use a variety of techniques in an attempt to “cleanse” the body. These include:

- Fasting
- Juicing
- Herbs
- Supplements
- Colon cleanses such as enemas or laxatives
- Saunas
- Food restrictions

The idea is that these techniques cleanse and purify the body of toxins by encouraging increased elimination and digestive rest. Some diets even claim to remove toxins and metals from the bloodstream.

## IS THERE EVIDENCE DETOX DIETS WORK?

Currently, there is no evidence that these methods to “detoxify” have any impact on human health. Your body already has ongoing processes to purify the blood and remove waste products. For example, your liver and digestive tract are two of the organ systems responsible for protecting you from harmful toxins.

While some people report feeling better or losing weight on a detox diet, this effect may be the result of removing unhealthy foods from the diet and cutting back on calories. You could likely achieve the same results by eating a healthier, balanced diet in general.

## ARE DETOX DIETS SAFE?

Some of these diets can be unsafe and use false advertising to promote their claims. Many products used in detoxes or cleanses are unregulated by the FDA and could potentially cause harmful side effects.

In addition, detox diets are often unbalanced, either by avoiding most foods or encouraging a high intake of specific foods or drinks. This could lead to problems with hydration or electrolyte balance, as well as cause digestive problems.

Other things to consider include any health conditions or medications you currently take. You should talk to your doctor before trying any type of detoxing or cleansing.

## ARE THERE ALTERNATIVES TO DETOXING?

If you are interested in cleaning up your diet but want to avoid the quick fixes promised by detox diets, there are other great options. Improving your health is a lifelong journey. Small changes over time can make a big difference.

### Consider these ideas:

- Cut out soda, juices, and other beverages, and let water be your drink of choice.
- Limit added sugars in your diet.
- Increase your intake of fruits and vegetables to at least 5 servings a day.
- Avoid late-night eating.
- Limit or remove alcohol from your diet.

Source: U.S Department of Health and Human Services

# Stop the spread of respiratory infections

The winter months are a peak time for the spread of infectious respiratory diseases. Cold weather often keeps people indoors, where it is easier for infections to spread.

Infectious respiratory diseases include the common cold, as well as other respiratory illnesses that can be more serious. Some people may be at increased risk of severe side effects from respiratory disease, including the elderly, children, and the immunocompromised.

Preventing the spread of respiratory disease helps keep everyone in your family and community safe. A few simple precautions can make all the difference. Once you know how these diseases are spread, you can take steps to contain them and make this winter a healthy one.



## AIRBORNE TRANSMISSION

The most common way infectious respiratory diseases spread is by small aerosols that become airborne when an ill person coughs, laughs, talks, or sneezes. These tiny aerosols can hang in the air for hours and easily travel to the lungs when inhaled.

## SURFACE TRANSMISSION

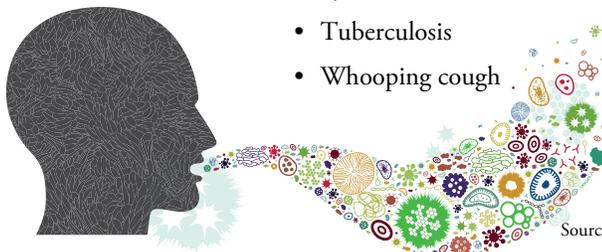
Contact with a surface that is contaminated with droplets from an infected person is another route of transmission. If you touch something that has saliva or mucus on it and then later touch your mouth or face, you can become infected with the virus.

## CLOSE CONTACT TRANSMISSION

Being in close contact with someone infected with a virus can result in exposure to large virus-laden respiratory droplets. In contrast to the tiny aerosols that can hang in the air for an extended period, larger droplets fall quickly and most likely to spread when people are less than 3 feet apart.

## TYPES OF INFECTIOUS RESPIRATORY VIRUSES

- Chickenpox
- Coronavirus infections (including SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV)
- Diphtheria
- Influenza (flu)
- Legionnaires' disease
- Measles
- Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS)
- Mumps
- Pneumonia
- Pneumococcal meningitis
- Rubella (German measles)
- Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)
- Tuberculosis
- Whooping cough



## PREVENT THE SPREAD

- Minimize close contact with ill people.
- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water.
- Don't share personal items such as food and utensils.
- Ask your doctor which vaccines are recommended for you, including the flu and COVID vaccines.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with your elbow and tissues (not your hands!).
- Stay home if you are ill.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

# Prevent overscheduling

If you feel like you are running from one thing to the next without enough time to catch your breath, you may be overscheduled. Even if all the items on your calendar are things you love, being too busy isn't good for you.

Everyone needs a bit of margin in their life. Having time to relax and rest is essential for good health.



## TO PREVENT OVERSCHEDULING, BE PROACTIVE AND HAVE A PLAN. TRY THESE TIPS:

- **Know your priorities.** You can't do everything, nor should you! Decide what matters most so you can make time for it.
- **Use the answer "let me get back to you on that" to buy yourself time.** Sometimes it's easier to say no after reflecting.
- **Put downtime on your calendar.** Perhaps it is one evening a week where you rest and don't commit to anything.
- **Practice saying no.** When you say no to something, it leaves space for you to say yes to what you truly care about.