

## More Tips about: Living Well in Anxious Times



**T**errible news about war and terrorism can be extremely unsettling. But completely avoiding news is probably not the best solution. To strike a balance, consider these few tips: 1) Schedule—not just prioritize—your self-care practices such as exercise, meditation, and hobbies to help reduce stress and promote mental well-being. 2) Maintain a supportive network of loved ones you can share concerns and process emotions. 3) Focus on what you can control—your goals, daily activities, and well-being are still important! 4) If anxiety feels overwhelming, speak to a mental health professional at your Employee Assistance Program (EAP). 5) There are now free apps *that block other apps* and let you get news or schedule access only at specific times. Some will even block you from tweaking the schedule in case you get the urge to peek!

Learn more: [beebom.com/app-blocker-apps/](http://beebom.com/app-blocker-apps/)

## Make Your Medical Visit More Beneficial



**B**ring health questions to your doctor to maximize the benefits of a medical exam. It could save your life. For example, forgetting to mention the curious bump under your arm could be disastrous if it is cancerous. Ask questions about risk given your family's medical history and about genetic tests that can help prevent them. Don't hold back questions you feel squeamish about, like sexual health issues. The bottom line—team with your doctor to maximize wellness.

Source: [health.usnews.com](http://health.usnews.com) [search "patients ask questions"]

## Get Help for Complex Grief



**G**rief is a unique experience for everyone. There is no "right amount of time" to navigate grief. Some people experience prolonged (complex) grief. It can be intense and debilitating. If you are struggling with the inability to move forward in your grief journey, consider professional counseling. There are peaks, valleys, and new horizons in overcoming grief. Taking this step to wellness can help protect your physical and mental health and relationships at home and at work.

Learn more about complex grief with this resource: [www.abct.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/complicated-grief.pdf](http://www.abct.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/complicated-grief.pdf)

## Tips for Managing a Heavy Workload



**M**any surveys show the primary cause of job stress is a heavy workload. If reducing your workload is not possible, set boundaries between work and personal life by first gauging the amount of work and then scheduling the time necessary to complete it. Also schedule personal, family, or leisure time around these hours. Stick rigorously to this schedule. Work tasks naturally consume all the time allocated or perceived to be available to complete them. (This is known as Parkinson's Law.) By rigorous scheduling, you leverage this principle to complete the work but still have a personal life—and all the benefits you derive from it!

<https://www.stress.org/workplace-stress>

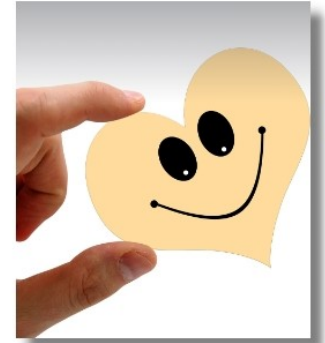
# Prepare Now for Holidays Ahead

**N**ovember is a good time to plan support and structure and to brainstorm ideas for coping with stress or loneliness during the holidays. The EAP is here to assist you in addressing the feelings of holiday-related sadness, isolation, anxiety, emptiness, or loneliness that can arise during this season. You don't have to endure these emotions in silence or solitude. While you may witness the joy and enthusiasm of others, the EAP understands your experience might be different. Together, you and the EAP can work on creating a personalized strategy to help you navigate the season, and also empower you to embrace the energy and excitement of the upcoming new year.



# Flip the Script with Positive Self-Talk

**"Self-talk"** is how we think and reason. It's the inner voice influencing your mindset and actions. The words or scripts it produces are either positive or negative but are often outside our awareness. With practice, you can take control of self-talk messages, steer them to be positive, overcome negative scripts, and make self-talk a superpower. In moments of adversity, ask yourself "Is my self-talk lifting me up right now or dragging me down?" If it's negative, fight the script. Immediately replace a negative script such as "I can't do this" with a positive script like "This is a big challenge, but I have the innate capacity to learn and grow from this experience." Key: Self-talk isn't about denial; it's about embracing challenges, learning from failures, and anticipating positive outcomes. The payoff for a positive self-talk habit is huge—more resilience, improved well-being, and more effective relationships.

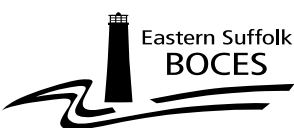


Learn more: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8295361/>

# Do You have Shift-Work Sleep Disorder

**S**hift work sleep disorder (SWSD) affects about 10% to 40% of employees—like health professionals, truckers, first responders, pilots, online customer service agents, factory workers, and retail clerks—who work irregular, nontraditional hours (shift work). Preventing SWSD requires six to seven hours of quality sleep nightly, but many life factors can make this goal difficult to achieve. The key is effective sleep hygiene to avoid health effects associated with SWSD, including insulin resistance and diabetes, anxiety, depression, lower bone density, and even lower fertility and neurodegenerative disorders like dementia. Tips: Create a sleep schedule and a comfortable sleep environment. Avoid exposure to digital screens and drinking coffee and alcohol before bedtime, as they disrupt the sleep cycle. Get regular exercise a few hours before bedtime. Avoid eating prior to sleeping.

Learn more: [sleepeducation.org](http://sleepeducation.org)



## BOCES Employee Assistance Program

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