

WORKPLACE TOOLKIT

#MOVEITHK

A community initiative by Mind HK to get people
moving for their mental health

January 16 - February 17 2019

www.moveithk.com

Organised by: Mind HK
www.mind.org.hk

MIND HK

Mind Hong Kong (Mind HK), a mental health initiative, ensures everyone in Hong Kong living with a mental health problem has the recognition, support and respect they need to make the best recovery possible. Through collaborations, innovation, and training, it facilitates the work of all those involved in improving mental health in Hong Kong.

1 in 4 of us will experience a mental health problem in our lifetime. Mind HK's key mission is to destigmatise mental health and improve attitudes and awareness to make sure everyone experiencing a mental health challenge has access to the available services and resources in Hong Kong. To foster improvements in understanding, comprehensive, informational resources on a range of mental health topics and a service directory are available in English and Traditional Chinese on its website (www.mind.org.hk). Alongside this, a team of clinical professionals regularly deliver evidence-based training programmes, including Mental Health First Aid, to the public, companies, non-profits and schools. Mind HK carries out and shares research internationally, and regularly holds expert talks and campaigns with local and international non-profit organisations - all of which are in sight of breaking the stigma around mental health in Hong Kong.

MOVE IT FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Move It for Mental Health is Mind HK's community initiative to raise awareness of how exercise benefits your physical and mental health. Mental and physical health are closely linked, but more than half of us in Hong Kong do not achieve the recommended amount of daily exercise. While the many physical benefits of exercise are known, this campaign seeks to challenge you to exercise for both your physical and mental wellbeing and to be aware of the difference it makes. Mind HK wants to support you and jumpstart improving your health in the New Year!

#MOVEIT HK

We have asked people to pledge to work out for their mental health between Jan 16 and February 17. The Mind HK team has pledged to exercise 31 hours for our mental health (approx 1 hour per day). Challenges are available at www.moveithk.com/challenges.

KEY GOALS:

- Raise awareness of the benefits of exercise on our mental wellbeing
- Jump start and support increased physical activity in 2019
- Raise awareness of and fundraise for Mind HK

48%

of adults achieve the recommended level of physical activity in Hong Kong. Over 50% do not achieve the minimum recommendation.

4.7%

Only 4.7% of Hong Kong's youth achieve one hour of physical activity per day (a WHO recommendation).

WHY GET INVOLVED

1 in 4 of us will experience a mental health problem within our lifetime - mental health disorder are among the leading causes of disability in Hong Kong and around the globe.

At 2019 begins, there's no doubt many are looking to be more fit and physically active. However, too often than not, we forget to consider how physical exercise contributes to our mental health.

There is robust evidence that mind and body are interlinked; exercise is necessary for the maintenance of good mental health and a form of treatment for mental health problems. Exercise has been shown prevents depression, boosts self-esteem and academic performance, and reduce day-to-day stress.

By holding an event or promoting this community initiative to your following, you will become part of a bigger movement to show that mental health matters.



HOLDING AN EVENT

There are many ways to support our Move It for Mental Health campaign. For companies, we'd ideally like to have you encourage your staff to take part in #moveithk to start 2019 right.

6 key steps are below:

1. LET US KNOW

If you're interested taking part, please email carol.liang@mind.org.hk. If your company decides to take part, we can list you as a supporting organisation of Move It for Mental Health 2019.

2. ENCOURAGE STAFF TO #MOVEITHK

3. GET PARTICIPANTS TO PLEDGE TO MOVE IT FOR MENTAL HEALTH ON WWW.MOVEITHK.COM

4. PROMOTE THE BENEFITS OF EXERCISE ON MENTAL HEALTH

5. TELL PARTICIPANTS TO TRACK & LOG THEIR WORKOUT

6. SHARE PICS ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND #MOVEITHK

IDEAS

There are many ways to encourage participation - handing out information leaflets, emailing around the **www.moveithk.com** website to your team, and holding a challenge to see who can move it for mental health most. Below is a list of ideas you can pick and choose from.

- Hand out information leaflets or our flyers (available on our website) to your staff members
- Email around the **www.moveithk.com** website to company members
- Hold a challenge between individuals or team to see who can move it for mental health most
- Extend lunch breaks by fifteen minutes/half an hour to encourage employees agree to exercise for part of their lunch break
- Organise a group hike or walk after work, over lunch break or over the weekend
- Have a 'standing meeting' or 'walking meeting'
- Make the stairwells attractive and put up motivational posters to promote the stairs to employees
- Hold a workshop on the benefits of physical activity on productivity
- Provide wireless telephones so employees can move around while on the telephone
- Offer on-site classes during lunchtime such as yoga



BENEFITS OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY ON MENTAL HEALTH

MENTAL HEALTH BENEFITS

- **Reduced anxiety and happier moods.** When you exercise, your brain chemistry changes through the release of endorphins (sometimes called 'feel good' hormones), which can calm anxiety and lift your mood.
- **Reduced feelings of stress.** You may experience reductions in feelings of stress and tension as your body is better able to control cortisol levels.
- **Clearer thinking.** Some people find that exercise helps to break up racing thoughts. As your body tires so does your mind, leaving you calmer and better able to think clearly.
- A greater sense of calm. Simply taking time out to exercise can give you space to think things over and help your mind feel calmer.
- **Increased self-esteem.** When you start to see your fitness levels increase and your body improve, it can give your self-esteem a big boost. The sense of achievement you get from learning new skills and achieving your goals can also help you feel better about yourself and lift your mood. Improved self-esteem also has a protective effect that increases life satisfaction and can make you more resilient to feeling stressed.
- **Reduced risk of depression.** If you're more active there's good evidence to suggest that at most ages, for both men and women, there's a trend towards lower rates of depression. In fact one study has found that by increasing your activity levels from doing nothing to exercising at least three times a week, you can reduce your risk of depression by almost 20%.

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL BENEFITS

- **Making friends and connecting with people.** Being around other people is good for our mental health and social networks – plus you can maximise the benefits of exercising by doing it with other people. You may find that the social benefits are just as important as the physical ones.
- **Having fun.** Lots of us enjoy being active because it's fun. Researchers have shown that there's a link between the things we enjoy doing and improvements in our wellbeing overall. If you enjoy an activity you're also more likely to keep doing it.
- **Challenging stigma and discrimination.** Some people find that joining a sport programme helps reduce the stigma attached to their mental health problem. Getting involved in local projects with other people who share a common interest can be a great way to break down barriers and challenge discrimination

BENEFITS OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY ON PHYSICAL HEALTH

PHYSICAL HEALTH BENEFITS

- **Reduced risk of some diseases.** For example, health experts suggest that being more active can reduce your risk of developing a stroke or heart disease by 10%, and type 2 diabetes by 30–40%.
- **Reduced risk of physical health problems as our bodies adapt to stress.** As we become fitter, our bodies can better regulate our cortisol levels. Cortisol is a 'stress hormone' that our bodies release in response to anxiety; over prolonged periods, higher cortisol levels have been linked to a wide range of health problems including heart disease, high blood pressure, a lowered immune response, as well as depression and anxiety.
- **Healthier organs.** When you're active your body is working more, which is good for your organs. For example, a stronger heart will help you have lower cholesterol and lower blood pressure.
- **Healthier bones.** Weight-bearing exercises will strengthen your bones and build your muscle, which can reduce your chances of developing osteoporosis.
- **Healthier weight.** If you're overweight, becoming more active can help you start to reduce body fat as your stamina and fitness levels improve.
- **More energy.** As your body adapts to increased activity levels you get a natural energy boost, which can make you feel less tired. Researchers say that even low intensity levels of activity can be beneficial if you usually feel very fatigued.
- **Improved sleep.** Many people find they are able to sleep better at night after having been more active during the day.

"HEALTH IS A STATE OF COMPLETE PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING AND NOT MERELY THE ABSENCE OF DISEASE OR INFIRMITY"
- WHO CONSTITUTION

GETTING INVOLVED INDIVIDUALLY

PLEDGE TO COMPLETE ONE OF OUR CHALLENGES TO MOTIVATE YOURSELF TO MOVE IT FOR MENTAL HEALTH

OPTION 1: 10 HOURS

- 10 hours of physical activity for mental health between January 16 and February 17
- 150 minutes per week
- Approximately five 30 minute exercise sessions per week

OPTION 2: 31 HOURS

- 31 hours of physical activity for mental health between January 16 and February 17
- Approximately one hour of exercise per day
- The Mind HK team has committed to exercising an hour a day during #moveithk!

OPTION 3: YOUR OWN GOAL

- Pledge 5 hours or 100 hours of physical activity for mental health - we're flexible!

Do what you most enjoy! Choose from a range of options, including going for a long walk at lunch break, hiking up to the Peak, going to yoga class, completing a spin class, or attending a martial arts lesson. Any activity is good for both your physical and mental health!

YOUR CALENDAR

TRACK YOUR WORKOUTS AND

LOG THEM ON

WWW.MOVEITHK.COM

Print this page off once or a few times and keep track of your workouts and take note of how your challenge is going. Log your total number of minutes/hours spent working out on www.moveithk.com and **#moveithk** on social media when you can!

GOALS:

Challenge (e.g. 30 hours):

Number of hours per week (e.g. 150 minutes) :

EXAMPLE

Date: January 15
Workout: 3 mile run
Duration: 30 minutes
How do you feel? Great! Clearer thinking and a runners high.

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Workout:
Duration:
How do you feel?

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Total Number of Minutes/Hours:
How have your workouts improved your mental health?

FUNDRAISING FOR MIND HK

HELP ENSURE NO ONE IN HONG KONG HAS TO FACE A MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEM ALONE

If you would like to fundraise for Mind HK by holding an event or creating an individual campaign page, please email carol.liang@mind.org.hk. The core goal on Move It for Mental Health is to raise awareness, but we of course appreciate and welcome any donations raised during the #moveithk campaign.

Donate by cheque

Make a cheque payable to "Patient Care Foundation Ltd." and write Mind HK on the back of the cheque. Please mail your cheque to:

Mind HK,
Unit D, 9/F,
One Capital Place,
18 Luard Road,
Wan Chai,
Hong Kong

If you would like to make a direct bank transfer, please email carol.liang@mind.org.hk

PLEASE NOTE

All donations made online and via cheque will be made in Hong Kong Dollars and directly to the Patient Care Foundation Limited, as Mind HK remains an initiative under this charity. We will make sure all donations will go directly to Mind HK programs.

The Patient Care Foundation is a recognized charitable institution under Section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance. Official receipts will be provided for donations over HKD 100 for tax exemption.

**Make your pledge
today.**



#moveithk

Learn more: www.moveithk.com

Mental Health Resources: www.mind.org.hk

Questions? events@mind.org.hk or carol.liang@mind.org.hk