

Tips for Coping with Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Concerns

University Counseling Services (UCS)
(414) 229-4133 or <http://uwm.edu/norris/counseling>

Recognizing Distress - A Self-Check List

- Increased worry, fearfulness, or feelings of being overwhelmed
- Feelings of fatigue or exhaustion that persist and/or intensify
- Inability to focus or concentrate accompanied by decreased academic performance
- A feeling of hopelessness and/or a paralyzing fear about the future
- Sudden anger, sadness, irritability or noticeable changes in personality
- Sleep difficulties
- Isolating or withdrawing from others, fear of going into public situations
- Increased unhealthy coping behaviors (e.g., increased alcohol or drug use, engaging in risky/impulsive behaviors)

Emotional Health Tips

- **Acknowledge reactions.** Allow yourself time to reflect on what you are feeling and how you may be reacting to any fears and uncertainties of the future.
- **Maintain your day-to-day routine activities and social outlets.** Resist withdrawing and isolating yourself away from the support and caring that others can provide.
- **Seek accurate information from The Center for Disease Control & Prevention and limit exposure to social media and news reports that may not be accurate or are sensational in intention.**
- **Pay attention to positive news instead of only focusing on negative and fear-producing reports.**
- **Follow the protection and prevention tips given by medical professionals such as the Norris Health Center here on campus, national medical authorities, and your own medical doctor.**
- **Practice calming rituals:** Stay grounded in the present moment, which can help you maintain an internal sense of stability and balance when outside events feel threatening.
- **Seek supports & use campus resources.** Reach out to friends and family and learn about campus resources available. If you or someone you know has high distress that does not seem to be lessening, talk about it with others or visit University Counseling Services. Your campus community is here to help!

Avoid Stigmatizing or Generalizing

- **Be aware of your behavior or attitude change towards others from another country**
- **Avoid generalizing anyone who may be sick as potentially having the Coronavirus**
- **Examine any irrational or rigid thoughts that can exist when there is uncertainty**

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