



Live Well, Work Well

Employee Health Benefits Bulletin: April 2019
South Brunswick School District

Get a Fresh Start!

Timely health tip:
If you have chronic stomach pain, you should contact your doctor for help, but also evaluate if a bland or non-varied diet, too many nuts or raw veggies, or stress could be the cause. Watch this short [video](#) for more information.

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Springtime brings new beginnings!
This issue offers news about your health plans and ideas to start healthier this season!

Women's Health Screenings

Preventive care, including regular doctor visits, is important for everyone. There are certain tests and screenings specific to women and their needs. Add these four screenings to your schedule to prevent the onset of certain conditions:

- 1) **Mammogram:** this low-dose X-ray allows doctors to look for changes in breast tissue that could indicate cancer. Suggested frequency is every one to two years after age 50.
- 2) **Pap smears:** women should have their first Pap smear at age 21 and then every three years until age 65. Women over 65 who have three or more normal Pap smears in a row can stop tests.



- 3) **Pelvic exams:** women are advised to have this exam every one to three years, after three consecutive normal exams, to detect any illnesses.

- 4) **Colorectal screening:** Suggested after age 50 to spot cancerous cells or growths.

Log into Horizon

BCBSNJ [Member Online Services](#) for more on women's health.

New *Benefits Online Website*

Be sure to check out our newest online tool, *Benefits Online*. The site offers 24/7 access to your health plan information from your own computer. Just log into the *Staff Portal* and go the *Health Benefits* link.

Air Pollution and Your Health

According to a study conducted by the International Food Policy Research Institute, breathing polluted air is attributed to “significantly reduced” verbal and math scores, and cognitive impairment that can lead to an increased risk of developing Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia.

What can you do? Although the United States experiences lower air pollution than other major countries, it's important to be aware of how your daily activities can contribute to air pollution. Here are some things to consider:

- » Research the household products that you use to determine if they're harmful to the environment.
- » Monitor home and working environments to ensure adequate airflow and that proper exhaust systems are installed.
- » Refrain from smoking, especially indoors, to make sure that this specific type of smoke doesn't pollute the air you're breathing.

Americans spend 90 percent of their lives indoors, where the air is two to five times more polluted than outdoor air; common pollutants include indoor formaldehyde from cigarettes, household gases, airborne particles like dust mites, and ozone. So get more fresh air outdoors!



Healthy Recipe Ginger Quinoa

Ingredients

- » 1 cup quinoa
- » 1-1/2 cups water or broth
- » 2 cups green beans
- » 2 ½ Tbsp. lemon juice
- » 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- » 1 Tbsp. sesame oil
- » 2 Tbsp. soy sauce
- » ¼ tsp. ground ginger

Instructions

- 1) Toast quinoa in dry skillet over medium heat, stirring constantly (about 3 mins.)
- 2) Place quinoa in medium pot and add water or broth
- 3) Bring to a boil, then simmer until water is absorbed and quinoa is tender (10-20 mins.); let cool
- 4) Microwave green beans until just tender; rinse in cold water
- 5) Combine quinoa, olive oil, sesame oil, green beans, lemon juice, soy sauce, and ground ginger; stir well
- 6) Season with salt and pepper; serve at room temperature

National Health Observances

April

National Minority Health Month

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov

Testicular Cancer Awareness Month

Testicular Cancer Society

testicularcancersociety.org

May

Mental Health Month

Mental Health America

mentalhealthamerica.net

National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
aafa.org