

# CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE IS THE WORLD'S BIGGEST KILLER

It has many causes: from smoking, diabetes, high blood pressure and obesity, to air pollution, and less common conditions such as Chagas disease and cardiac amyloidosis.

For the 520 million people living with CVD, COVID-19 has been heartbreaking. They have been more at risk of developing severe forms of the virus. And many have been afraid to attend routine and emergency appointments, and have become isolated from friends and family.

This year on World Heart Day:

# USE

## USE TO CONNECT WITH YOUR

Look after your heart by eating a healthy diet, saying no to tobacco and getting plenty of exercise. Digital tools, like phone apps and wearables, can help you get motivated and stay on track.

## USE TO CONNECT EVERY

Half the world doesn't have internet connectivity. So they can't access digital tools to help prevent, diagnose and treat CVD. Disconnected hearts are vulnerable. Connected hearts are empowered.

## USE TO CONNECT PEOPLE WITH

Digital networks have the power to connect patients with families, friends, other patients, doctors and carers. No one should have to feel alone, pandemic or not, so let's use technology to overcome isolation and gaps in care.

## ABOUT THE WORLD HEART FEDERATION

The World Heart Federation (WHF) is an umbrella organisation representing the global cardiovascular community, uniting patient, medical, and scientific groups. WHF influences policies and shares knowledge to promote cardiovascular health for everyone. WHF connects the cardiovascular community, translates science into policy and promotes the exchange of information and knowledge to achieve heart health for everyone. Our advocacy and convening roles help us empower our members to prevent and control cardiovascular disease.

## USE TO CONNECT ON 29 SEPTEMBER


As the world still struggles to fight COVID-19, we've never been more aware of the importance of our own and our loved ones' health.

And so this year, World Heart Day is more crucial than ever. A chance for us all: to connect with our own hearts and make sure we're fuelling and nurturing them as best we can; and to use the power of digital to connect every heart, everywhere.

Visit [worldheartday.org](http://worldheartday.org) to find out how you can connect – we'll be adding lots of resources, tips and info in the run up to 29 September.



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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



# WORLD HEART DAY 29 SEP



## USE TO BEAT

#UseHeart #WorldHeartDay



## USE ♥ TO EAT WELL & DRINK WISELY

- ♥ Cut down on sugary beverages and fruit juices – choose water or unsweetened juices instead.
- ♥ Swap sweet, sugary treats for fresh fruit as a healthy alternative.
- ♥ Try to eat 5 portions (about a handful each) of fruit and veg a day – they can be fresh, frozen, tinned or dried.
- ♥ Keep the amount of alcohol you drink within recommended guidelines.
- ♥ Limit processed foods that are often high in salt, sugar and fat - unpack and unwrap less, peel and cook more!
- ♥ Search online or download an app and get lots of heart-healthy recipe tips.



## USE ♥ TO GET MORE ACTIVE

- ♥ Aim for at least 30 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity 5 times a week.
- ♥ Or at least 75 minutes spread throughout the week of vigorous-intensity activity.
- ♥ Playing, walking, housework, dancing – they all count!
- ♥ Be more active every day – take the stairs, walk or cycle instead of driving.
- ♥ Stay fit at home – even if you're on lockdown you can join virtual exercise classes and workouts for the whole family.
- ♥ Download an app or use a wearable device to keep track of your steps and progress.



## USE ♥ TO SAY NO TO TOBACCO

- ♥ It's the single best thing you can do to improve your heart health.
- ♥ Within 2 years of quitting, the risk of coronary heart disease is substantially reduced.
- ♥ Within 15 years the risk of CVD returns to that of a non-smoker.
- ♥ Exposure to secondhand smoke is also a cause of heart disease in non-smokers.
- ♥ By quitting/not smoking you'll improve both your health and the health of those around you.
- ♥ If you're having trouble stopping, seek professional advice and ask your employer if they provide smoking-cessation services.

### DID YOU KNOW?

High blood glucose (blood sugar) can be indicative of diabetes. CVD accounts for the majority of deaths in people with diabetes so if it's left undiagnosed and untreated it can put you at increased risk of heart disease and stroke.

### DID YOU KNOW?

High blood pressure is one of the main risk factors for CVD. It's called the 'silent killer' because it usually has no warning signs or symptoms, and many people don't realise they have it.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Cholesterol is associated with around 4 million deaths per year, so visit your healthcare professional and ask them to measure your levels, as well as your weight and body mass index (BMI). They'll then be able to advise on your CVD risk so you can take action to improve your heart health.