## Returning to Work Outside the Home

Making the Pieces Fit Through the Lens of Change Management

## Housekeeping 02 03



Feel free to use the chat feature. You can send a message to the host. You'll be assigned automatically to breakout rooms.

Before closing, you'll get a one minute alert, and automatically be brought back to the main session.





## **Overview of Topics**



Dealing With Change







' Focus On What You Can Control

## Two billion 350 million

Google

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#### Preparing for the return to work outside the home: a t

Apr 27, 2020 – Return to work: what do workers think? Ensuring a safe **retur the home**; Ensuring no-one is forced to work in an unsafe ...





## **Common COVID Related Stressors**



## A Look At Stress And Our Bodies: A Case Study Example

You are a customer service representative. You need to answer six calls per hour. Some callers may take more time than others, some just want to talk, and some have difficulty on the phone. Your boss alerts you that you are falling behind and on average, you are only answering four calls per hour.

What happens in your brain if you perceive this as a stressor?



When your boss gives you the warning that you aren't answering enough calls, your brain releases hormones into your body. One of these is called Cortisol, and one is called Adrenaline.

Cortisol and Adrenaline help our bodies with the need to fight or run away to survive, however, we can't fight our boss, or run away from our worksite...yet our bodies are preparing for battle or escape.



### **That Dry Mouth**

When we feel stressed out, we also experience a dry mouth, as our brain automatically moves liquid away from "non-essential" parts of our bodies. Now it's more difficult to talk.

### Your Immune System's Response

As your brain continues to prepare to respond to the "threat" of your boss letting you know you aren't answering enough calls per hour, your body continues to feel the effects.

Your immune system is being supercharged with white blood cells, which the brain automatically sends to areas where physical injury might happen...but we know there's no battle coming. Our brain can't help it.

### Heart, Lungs, and Circulation Response

Your breathing becomes faster as your lungs inhale more oxygen to run away or fight. The blood flow to your muscles increases, all without us realizing it.

The body and brain are ready for what comes next...but what comes next is just a staff meeting, or another phone call. There is no fight, but our brain is ready because we perceived a threat.

All of this happens without our control, so when we work with other people, we need to be aware of the automatic processes that happen when we get stressed.

The ability to recognize how your body reacts to stressors in your life can be a powerful skill. *Most people are* more aware of the weather, the time of day, or their bank balance than they are of the tension in their own bodies.





### In the breakout room:



Introduce yourself and share: where do you first feel stress in your body? Jaw? Legs? Hands?







#### What is mindfulness? Jon Kabat-Zinn; Matt Killingsworth

- The practice of mindfulness is the ability to pay careful attention to what you are thinking, feeling and sensing in the present moment without judging those thoughts and feelings as good or bad.
- When you notice that your mind is wandering, instead of judging your thoughts, embrace uncomfortable thoughts/ emotions as a part of life and return to the present moment.
- Mind Wandering 47% of the time, people are thinking about something other than what they are currently doing (e.g. worrying about the future, dwelling on the past). We are less happy when our mind wanders, even when we are thinking about something "positive."
- Countless studies link mindfulness to benefits like better health, lower anxiety and greater resilience to stress.



### Four Steps to Stress Management

### NOTICE MY STRESS SIGNAL

What signs do you notice before you get stressed out?

### SELFTALK

Change the conversation you have with yourself.



#### MAKE LIFE CHANGES

If nothing changes, nothing changes. Think of scheduling? Self soothing? Journaling?

#### LIFE OF LESS STRESS

Sleep. Diet. Grounding activities.

## Dealing With Change





10% of employees exhausted their emergency savings within the first 2 weeks of the pandemic, according to <u>Edelman Financial</u> <u>Engines</u>. 1 month into the crisis, almost 1/3 of employees had depleted their emergency funds and stopped contributing to their retirement accounts.

1/4<sup>th</sup> of employees view their jobsas the #1 stressor in their lives.(Northwest National Life)

## **Financial Impacts**



### In the breakout room:



What are the financial, lifestyle and emotional considerations related to working outside the home?







### **Possible Considerations**

Negotiating our Expectations

is a significant tool for coping with change and stress.

What happens when your expectations aren't met?



### **Possible Advantages of Working Outside the Home**







The sense of personal power, pride in accomplishments, exposure to new projects, connecting to peers, leadership and promotional opportunities

# 3 MIN STRETCH BREAK



Shoulder Rolls Wrist Rolls

## Using Our Strengths









You can change your mind-set towards many things in your life that will reduce your stress. Start by changing the conversation you have with yourself











Ask for help from friends and family







Prioritize sleep over everything



Exercise and practice mindfulness

# Realistic Coping Skills



Limit time on social media

Pet therapy

Create a to-do list and prioritize items

Journaling

Take time for your self

# Realistic Coping Skills



## Focus On What You Can Control





AWARE

triggers in advance Notice counterproductive thoughts in the moment

• Identify



NTERRUPT

Physical cue
Deep breath or

positive emotion



Τ]

REPLA

Shift

 consciously
 to more
 productive
 thoughts
 in the
 moment





## Name How You Are Feeling



Returning to work creates many dynamic feelings in all of us. It's important to <u>recognize, name</u> and <u>address</u> how you might be feeling, and give space for others to feel their feelings as well.

### **Organizational Culture**



It is based on shared workplace values. It is shown in people's behaviors, activities, the way we communicate, and how we work with each other.



Reflect on your ability to impact and shape organizational culture. If we act intentionally, we may have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to enrich it as we go through this together.

Forming **Storming** Norming Performing Adjourning

Tuckman's Theory of Small Group Dynamics



### In the breakout room:



What might you look forward to back in the workplace?











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### **Dealing with Change**

>Our beliefs about change and financial, emotional and other considerations about change



### Using our Strengths

Self-talk, resilience, AIR, realistic coping skills



#### Focusing on What we Can Control ≻Organizational culture, HALT, naming our feelings, EAP resources - private, confidential



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