

## Tips for eating well for the Afro-Caribbean community

KEY MESSAGE	FURTHER INFORMATION
Eats lots of fruit and vegetables.	It's recommended that you eat at least 5 portions of a variety of fruit and vegetables every day. Go for a rainbow of colours, from foods such as cho cho, papaya, jackfruit, eggplant or green vegetables like callaloo, okra and spinach.
Base your meals on higher fibre starchy carbohydrates.	Starchy carbohydrates include potatoes, bread, rice, pasta and cereals. Choose wholegrain pasta and rice. Have boiled or baked yam instead of fried yam. Bake or grill plantain rather than frying. Consider portion sizes - a portion is what fits in the palm of your hand.
Eat more fish, including a portion of oily fish.	Aim to eat at least 2 portions of fish a week, including at least 1 portion of oily fish. Swap salted codfish with other tasty fish like snapper or mackerel.
Cut down on saturated fat and sugar.	Try to cut down on your saturated fat intake and choose foods that contain unsaturated fats instead. Choose white meat such as chicken rather than red meat. Reduce consumption of malt drinks, full-sugar punch drinks and fizzy drinks. Have traditional snacks like plantain crisps, puff puff, chin chin and vetkoek less often.
Eat less salt: no more than 6g a day for adults.	Eating too much salt can raise your blood pressure. People with high blood pressure are more likely to develop heart disease or have a stroke. Try to avoid adding salt to dishes that already contain salt or use herbs and spices instead. TOP TIP: Consider removing salt from the table.
Keep properly hydrated.	You need to drink plenty of fluids to stop you getting dehydrated. The recommendation is drinking 6 to 8 glasses every day. Choose water, low sugar drinks and low fat milk as part of this.
Have some dairy or dairy alternatives (such as soya drinks).	Milk and dairy foods, such as cheese and yoghurt, are good sources of protein. They also contain calcium, which helps keep your bones healthy. Choose semi-skimmed, 1% fat or skimmed milk, as well as lower fat hard cheeses or cottage cheese, and lower fat, lower sugar yoghurt. When buying dairy alternatives check for those fortified with calcium.
Eat breakfast.	A healthy breakfast high in fibre and low in fat, sugar and salt can form part of a balanced diet. Choose wholegrain cereals with low fat milk or a non dairy alternative.
Get active and be a healthy weight.	As well as eating healthily, regular exercise may help reduce your risk of getting serious health conditions. Try to do low to moderate physical activity every day, e.g. gardening, walking, dancing etc.

