HEALTH FIRST QUICK GUIDE TO

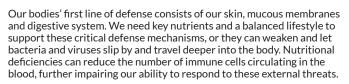
NEW TO THE WORLD OF NATURAL HEALTH? TRYING TO LIVE A HEALTHIER LIFE?



Then the Health First Network series of quick guides are for you! In this issue, we talk about one of the biggest topics in Canada and around the world today: immunity.

IMMUNE CELLS

WE DON'T NOTICE, BUT OUR IMMUNE SYSTEMS ARE AT WAR EVERY DAY AGAINST FOREIGN INVADERS.



The good news is that if we "feed" our immune systems with healthy lifestyle habits and supporting nutrients, we can keep them performing at their best and block out those invaders!



LIFESTYLE: THE FOUNDATION OF IMMUNITY We've heard it all before, but it's amazing just how much sleep, exercise and stress can affect immunity. Sleep speeds healing, while exercise can reduce

colds and flus by half! Managing stress is critical too – meditation apps are all the rage!

VITAMIN C: THE EVERYDAY IMMUNE ESSENTIAL

Vitamin C is essential for immunity as it supports key tissues involved in that first line of defense. Look for a timed-release vitamin C combined with antioxidants like rose hips, which can improve absorption while protecting against oxidation.



TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE: THE IMMUNE ENHANCER

TCM herbs have long been used to repel invading forces. A combination of "adaptogenic" herbs helps the body to adapt to stress and fight back fatigue while enhancing its own innate self-healing capability and immunity.





MEDICINAL MUSHROOMS: THE IMMUNE ACTIVATORS

Mushrooms contain a key compound called "beta-glucans", which can strengthen the immune system and even increase antibody production. Reishi mushroom in particular has been shown to increase white blood cells – the ones that fight infection!

ECHINACEA: FOR FAMILY IMMUNITY

Most cold and flu remedies, even natural ones, are not recommended during pregnancy and breastfeeding. So what's a woman to do to alleviate symptoms? Choose echinacea! It's safe for moms and children, and can help reduce the discomfort of upper respiratory infections.





OREGANO: THE IMMUNE DEFENDER

Oil of oregano is a powerful antimicrobial. Its active chemical is "carvacrol", which has a demonstrated ability to penetrate the protein coating of viruses and alter the cell membranes of bacteria, helping to stop those foreign invaders in their tracks!

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