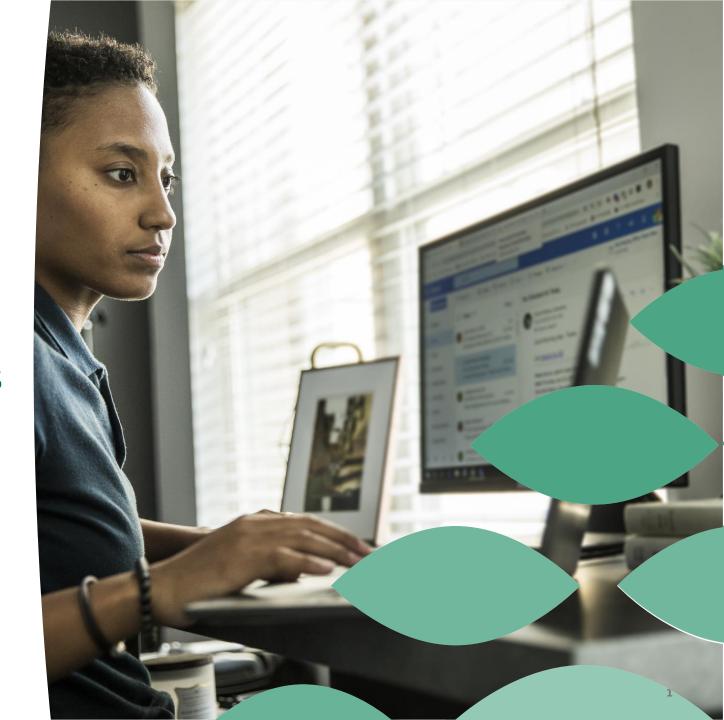


#### **Business to Business Zoom Conference Series**

# The impact of isolation on employee health and wellness

#### Today's Topics:

- 1. Latest on COVID-19
- 2. Employee mental health and feelings of loneliness
- 3. Increased substance use and abuse





Ed Gilkey, MD, MS, MBA, CPE, Senior Physician Executive, Northern Light Beacon Health



Jim Jarvis, MD, FAAFP Senior Physician Executive Incident Command, Northern Light Health, Director, Clinical Education, Northern Light EMMC



Angela Fileccia, LCSW, Director Healthy Life Resource Program, Northern Light Acadia



Jacquelyn Cyr, NPc, Adult Outpatient Services Northern Light Acadia Hospital

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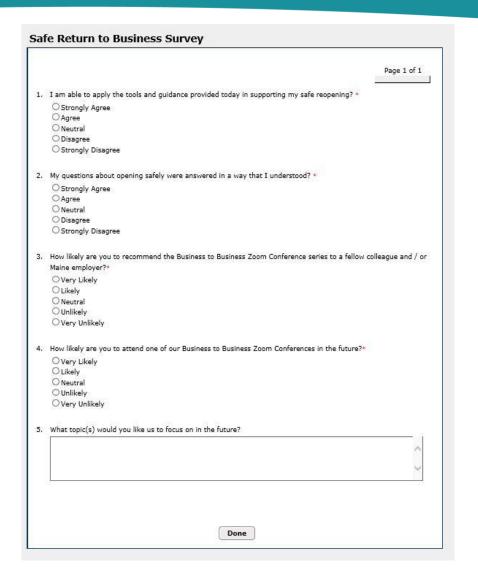
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Accordingly, following any guidance Northern Light Health presents today in no way guarantees that you, your employees and/or your customers and clients will not contract or spread the Coronavirus.

# Ask us questions – give us feedback – this hour is for you

 Please use the chat function to ask your questions at anytime.



The latest on COVID-19

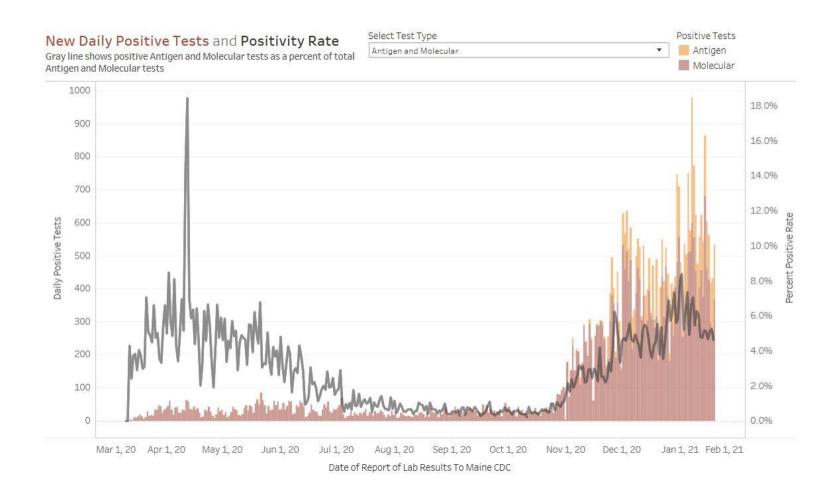
#### **COVID-19 Latest Numbers**



# Testing...

#### Why wait to be retested?

- May continue to test positive for up to 90 days
- Well after symptoms have subsided and are no longer contagious



# **Vaccine Update**

#### **COVID-19 Vaccination Update**

What You Need to Know

Northern Light Health, with direction of the Maine State CDC, has expanded COVID-19 vaccination offerings to community members age 70 and over. At this time, vaccine supply is very limited and you must have an appointment to get vaccinated.

If you are 70 or over, make an appointment for your vaccine at covid.northernlighthealth.org/publicvaccine.

- All Northern Light Health locations offering the vaccine in Maine are listed on this site.
- New appointments are added every week on Monday, as soon as we confirm the number of vaccine doses we have.
- While we cannot register patients by phone at this time, we are working hard now to set up a call center in the near future – watch for that information soon.
- For ongoing information about the COVID-19 vaccine, please call our recorded vaccination information line at 207.275,2200.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to get our communities vaccinated.



Cumulative reported vaccinations

85,847

First Doses

71,707

Second Doses

14,140

Last updated 1-20-2021

Thriving in the unknown: Employee mental health and feelings of loneliness

# What makes this so hard?

# **Loneliness – The next pandemic?**

- Quarantine
- "Social" distancing
- Masking
- Virtual world
- Community events cancelled





10

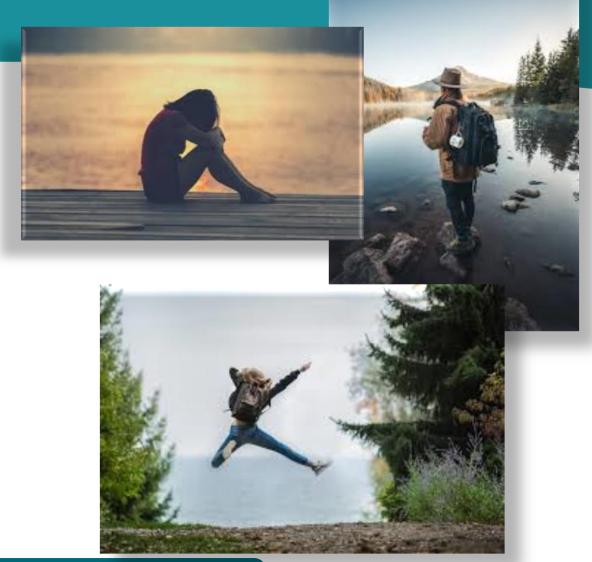
# **Loneliness Defined**

#### **Loneliness Defined**

- The perception of being alone and isolated.
- A feeling of disconnectedness or isolation.
- The feeling of being alone, regardless of how many people are around.

#### Loneliness vs. Alone

- Alone is not the same as lonely.
- An individual's level of satisfaction with their connection with others.
- Perception is reality.





# **Loneliness: The next pandemic?**

# Loneline ss by the numbers

Rates of loneliness have doubled since 1980s

More than 25% of Americans live alone; highest %age ever recorded!

A third of Americans reported feeling lonely

In 2018, the UK appointed a Minister of Loneliness.

Older adults at greatest risk for loneliness.

Surveys during Covid indicate increased feelings of loneliness at the start of the pandemic.



The Big Idea:

The loneliness pandemic started before Covid.

# **Loneliness and Covid**

#### **Pandemic Isolation**

- Studies conducted in 2020 show increase in depression, anxiety, and feelings of loneliness.
- Older adults, people of color, low income, those in congregate living all at greater risk.
- Fear, limited ability to read facial expressions, casual interactions even gone.



#### The Virtual World

- "Social" Distancing
  - In-person events cancelled
  - Viritual world harder to connect
  - Limits type of human interactions
- Work from home
  - Abnormal WFH conditions
  - Work friendships harder to maintain



The Big Idea:

Loneliness is a real problem for many.

# Ways to help

# Physical distancing, not social

- Maintain connection with friends & family
- Call, not just text!

#### **Embrace virtual**

- Learn & use tech: Facetime, Google Meets, Zoom, WebEx, etc.
- Cameras on!

### Be Purposeful

- Schedule virtual happy hours, trivia/game nights
- Host staff meetings with cameras on
- Create & schedule time for chit-chat and check-ins



Loneliness risk can be decreased.

Increased substance use and abuse

#### **Increased Substance Use and Abuse**

#### **Most commonly used substances:**

- Alcohol (88%)
- Marijuana (37%)
- Prescription opioids (15%)
- Benzodiazepines, such as Xanax (11%)
- Prescription stimulants, such as Adderall (10%)
- Cocaine (9%)

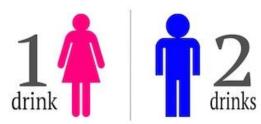
#### Reasons given for increased use:

- 53% cope with stress
- 39% relieve boredom
- 32% cope with mental health symptoms,
   such as anxiety or depression
- recreational reasons , to treat pain or part of daily routine

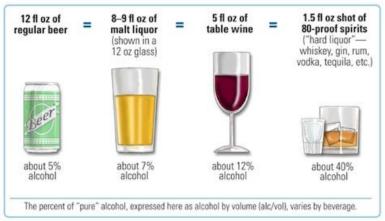


#### Increase Substance use and abuse

# **How Much Alcohol Is Healthy?**



According to the National Institutes of Health, in the United States, one "standard" drink contains roughly 14 grams of pure alcohol, which is found in one of the following:



www.PulseO5.com

#### The 5 W's

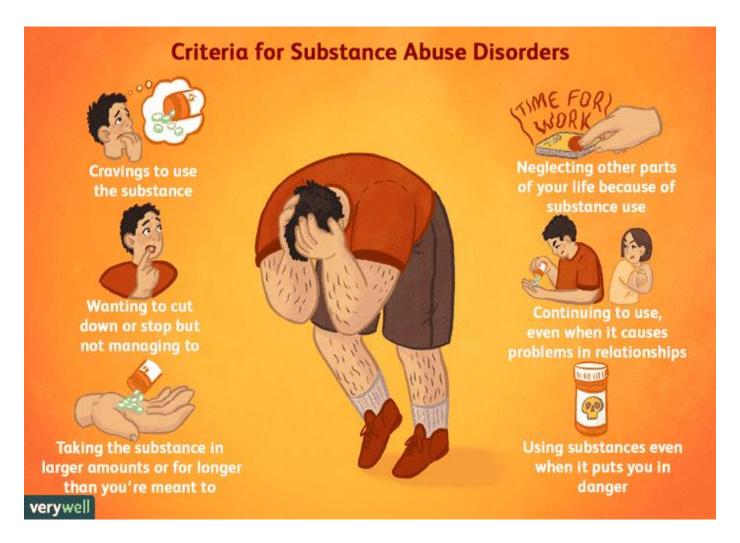
- What are you drinking and How Much?
- When are you drinking?
- Where?
- Who are you drinking with?
- Why?

The 6<sup>th</sup> **W** - is this or should this pattern be a **Worry**?

#### Ask yourself to HALT and find your WHY

- **H**= Are you Hungry/Hangry
- A=Anxious or Angry
- L= Lonely or Lazy(bored)
- T=Tired or Thirsty

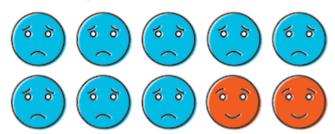
#### **Increased Substance Use and Abuse**



#### Increased Substance use and abuse



8 in 10 workers say shame and stigma prevent them from seeking treatment for a mental health condition



Things to watch for when substances maybe an issue:

- Increased absences/disappearing unexpectedly
- Declining Job performance
- Evident Financial struggle
- Regular physical Health Issues
- Decline in personal hygiene and appearance
- Frequently Erratic and Unpredictable behavior

#### **Resources for Substance Abuse**

# Maine COVID-19 Support Resources

If you need resources or support, please contact one of the numbers below....

#### Non-Crisis Peer Support

Statewide Intentional Warm Line



1-866-771-9276

Offers non-crisis peer support 24 hours a day/7 days week

#### Maine Crisis Line



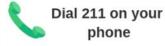


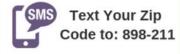
To access your local, mobile crisis services, please call the statewide hotline above...

Offers crisis phone support 24 hours a day/7 days week

# Information & Referral Resources







Contact for information related to COVID-19 and/or referrals to needed services

#### **Additional Resources:**

- 207.949.4634 Northern Light Acadia Hospital
- https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/samhs/virtualrecovery.shtml

# Use chat and ask your questions



Ed Gilkey, MD, MS, MBA, CPE, Senior Physician Executive, Northern Light Beacon Health



Jim Jarvis, MD, FAAFP Senior
Physician Executive Incident
Command, Northern Light Health,
Director, Clinical Education,
Northern Light EMMC



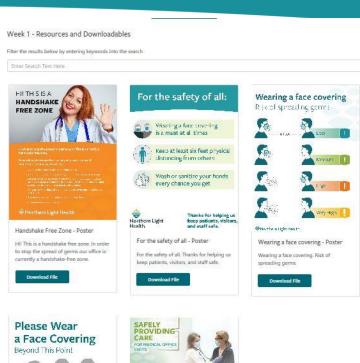
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Jacquelyn Cyr, NPc, Adult Outpatient Services Northern Light Acadia Hospital

# Tools you can use:

https://northernlighthealth.org/Resources/Safe-Return-to-Business







# For more information or to submit a topic for a future Zoom Conference:

Contact:
Lanie Abbott
Director of Communications
lwabbott@northernlight.org



# Join us Thursday, February 4:

Handling Employee Exposures and Planning for Mass Vaccinations





24

1.21.21

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