

<b>General Health Guidelines:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excessive alcohol use is the third leading lifestyle-related cause of death of the nation.</li> <li>Alcohol affects all body systems!</li> <li>Learn the risk and health effects of alcohol consumption.</li> </ul>
<b>Green Flags — All Clear</b> 🚩	<b>What this means...</b>
<b>If you:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not drink or if you do, drink in moderation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You are taking steps in taking care of your health.</li> </ul>
<b>Keep up the great work!</b>	
<b>Yellow Flags — Caution</b> 🚩	<b>What this means...</b>
<b>If you:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drink heavily and are frequently intoxicated</li> <li>Risky behaviors e.g. driving after drinking</li> <li>Loss of appetite</li> <li>Regularly lose control over your alcohol intake, drink to cope with difficulties, or to avoid feeling bad</li> <li>A need to drink to relieve or avoid withdrawal symptoms</li> <li>Black out (have little or no memory of events before passing out)</li> <li>Rapid weight gain or growing abdomen</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You are at increased risk for accidents and injuries</li> <li>You are at increased risk for health complications</li> <li>You may benefit from counseling</li> <li>You may benefit from alcohol treatment</li> </ul> <div>           Call your doctor, consulting nurse, or health care provider if symptoms do not improve.             Name:             Number:             Instructions:         </div>
<b>If you notice a Yellow Flag, work closely with your health care team.</b>	
<b>Red Flags—Stop and Think</b> 🚩	<b>What this means...</b>
<b>If you:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shake or have tremors in your hands and legs, or have a seizure</li> <li>Have hallucinations</li> <li>Have nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, and dehydration</li> <li>Vomit blood or have black stool</li> <li>Have confusion, agitation, sweating, rapid heart rate and high blood pressure indicating delirium tremens (“DTs”)</li> <li>Have loss of consciousness or fainting</li> <li>Feel suicidal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You need to be evaluated by a healthcare professional immediately.</li> </ul> <div>           Name:             Number:             Follow these instructions: <b>CALL 9-1-1</b> </div>
<b>If you notice a Red Flag, CALL 9-1-1. Emergency!</b>	



# Alcohol Use & Liver Disease

## Alcohol Fast Facts

- Alcoholism, also known as “alcohol dependence” is a disease that includes alcohol craving and continued drinking despite repeated alcohol-related problems, such as losing a job or getting into trouble with the law. Approximately 80,000 deaths are attributed to excessive alcohol use each year in the United States.
- **Alcohol affects all body systems.** It acts as a depressant and slows reaction time that leads to impaired judgment and decreased coordination. High intake of alcohol can cause mood swings, behavior changes, and problems with your ability to walk. Other side effects include dilation of blood vessels and increased stomach acid.
- Moderate drinking is defined as up to four alcoholic drinks for men and three for women in any single day.
- Heavy drinkers suffer a variety of alcohol-related problems including damage to the brain, (including strokes), stomach, heart disease (high blood pressure, an enlarged heart and/or irregular heartbeat and heart attacks), elevated cholesterol levels, as well as diseases of the liver and pancreas. They are also ten times more likely to get cancer than those who drink moderately or not at all. Cancer of the mouth, throat, esophagus, liver, colon, and breast are increased.
- Your liver can only metabolize about one drink per hour, so drinking more than that causes intoxication and impairment.
- Binge drinking is generally defined as the consumption of 5 or more drinks on 1 occasion.
- Each year, thousands of people choke on their own vomit while intoxicated.
- Alcohol poisoning, a medical emergency results from high blood alcohol levels that suppress the central nervous system and can cause loss of consciousness, low blood pressure and body temperature, coma, respiratory depression, or death.

### What can you do?

- Talk openly to your health care provider. There is help out there for you if you are interested.
- Avoid mixing alcohol and over the counter or prescription medicines.
- Avoid alcohol if you have had a previous hemorrhagic stroke, have heart failure, or if you have been told you have weak heart or an enlarged heart.
- Avoid alcohol if you have liver or pancreatic disease.
- Contact the addiction treatment helpline: 1-800-610-HOPE (4673) Washington Recovery Help Line, 24-Hour Help for Substance Abuse, Problem Gambling & Mental Health 866-789-1511 TTY 206-461-3219

### Southeast Washington Aging and Long Term Care

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Call for assistance

**Upper Valley Yakima County:** 509-469-0500 **Lower Valley Yakima County (Grandview):** 509-402-0334

**Benton County:** 509-735-0315 **Franklin County:** 509-412-1013

**Kittitas County:** 509-925-8765 **Walla Walla County:** 509-529-6470

**Columbia County:** 509-382-4787 **Garfield County:** 509-843-3563

**Asotin County:** 509-758-2355



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