

### Self-Care Handout

## **Mental Health Problems**

# Mental Health Concerns:

- Anxiety
- Panic attacks
- Depression
- Anxiety with depression
- Suicide

### Signs and Symptoms of Anxiety and/or Depression:

- Fatigue/tiredness
- Sleep disturbances
- Increased tension
- Irritability
- Difficulty concentrating
- Increased heart rate
- Nervousness
- Trembling
- Nausea
- Dizziness

### Warning Signs of Suicide:

- Talking about wanting to die or wanting to kill yourself
- Looking for a way to kill yourself, such as searching online for methods or buying a gun
- Talking about feeling hopeless or having no reason to live
- Talking about feeling trapped or in unbearable pain
- Talking about being a burden to others

## If you are experiencing suicidal thoughts or worsening/concerning symptoms, please:

- Call 911
- Seek immediate medical care through the nearest Emergency Room
- Call the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline
  - o **988** 
    - o https://988lifeline.org/
- Call TAPLINE: 24 hour free psychological telephone support
  - o <u>1-800-222-9016</u>
- Crisis Text Line (<u>https://www.crisistextline.org/</u>): Text HOME to 741741

### Self-Care treatment options for depression and anxiety:

- Start a regular exercise routine such as daily brisk walks, running/jogging, biking
- Avoid stimulants such as energy/power drinks, caffeine pills
- Avoid caffeine: coffee, tea, sodas, chocolate and diet pills
- Avoid alcohol or drug use

#### Some Relaxation Techniques:

- Find quiet time for 20 minutes on a daily basis
- Keep a daily journal of your thoughts and things that happen to you
- Get outside daily for at least 5 minutes to get "grounded". Enjoy the sunlight or touch the ground.
- Self-massage or get a massage of the neck, back, and feet to relieve tension
- Talk to a good friend or the Counseling Services about problems or fears
- Use meditation or guided imagery to relieve tension
- Listen to mellow or calming music
- Take slow, deep breaths
- Take warm showers or baths to relieve muscle tension

Please contact the Student Counseling Center or the on-campus Student Health Clinic to make an appointment to obtain *confidential* information about treatment options -- help is available.

The Center for Counseling and Human Development (CCHD) Student Services Center Room 240 570-389-4255 www.bloomu.edu/offices-directory/counseling-and-human-development

Please call to make an appointment at your on-campus Student Health Clinic or with your PCP or go to Urgent Care or the Emergency Department if your concerns do not improve with conservative self-care treatment or if you have worsening symptoms.

Please know your health problem and allergies. Information contained in this handout is for educational purposes only. It is not a substitute for evaluation and treatment by a Healthcare professional. As new and updated information becomes available, the content may change. Please contact your Healthcare Provider or the on-campus Student Health Services Clinic with any questions.

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