



## Wellness Articles

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If you would like to be added to the distribution list for these articles, please email: [Rebecca.johnson2@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:Rebecca.johnson2@albertahealthservices.ca). You will receive a monthly email containing articles for the upcoming four weeks.

An archive of past wellness articles is available at [Wellness Articles | Alberta Health Services](#)

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## Reducing the salt in your diet

February is Heart Month, a time when you may want to think about taking care of your heart.

Reducing salt in your diet is one way to improve your heart health. Eating too much salt (sodium) may cause high blood pressure. If you lower your blood pressure, you may lower your risk of heart attack, heart failure and stroke.

The top sources of sodium in our diets include ready-made bread, crackers and muffins, as well as takeout pizza and lasagna, and processed meats such as deli meat and sausages. Cheese, soups and condiments such as soy sauce and ketchup are also very high in salt. If you reduce the amount of processed, fast food, take-out food and restaurant meals you eat, you may reduce the sodium in your diet.

Another way to lower sodium is to prepare food at home. When cooking at home, you can use little or no salt. Try flavouring your food with garlic, onions, herbs, spices, lemon juice and vinegar instead of salt.

Do you need some tips on cooking with less sodium? The AHS South Health Campus Wellness Kitchen in Calgary will host Low Sodium Tasty Tips and Tricks, a free online cooking demonstration. A registered dietitian will lead the two-part series, which will include information on reading labels, lower sodium substitutions and preparing healthy lower-sodium foods that still taste great. Anyone in Alberta is welcome to sign up.

To register, visit [ahs.ca/shcwellness](https://ahs.ca/shcwellness) or email: [wellness.shc@ahs.ca](mailto:wellness.shc@ahs.ca).

For more information on this topic, search “heart health” at [ahs.ca/nutritionhandouts](https://ahs.ca/nutritionhandouts).