

A Brighter Future

Notes by Denny Waxman Recipes & Remedies by Susan Waxman

Do we need to worry about the coronavirus?

Common sense and good health are the best safeguards for everyone

So far children under 19 are not at great risk

The elderly and people with weakened immunity are most at risk Blood Cells - about 3 to 4 months (100 to 120 days)

Current CDC recommendations

The current CDC, Centers for Disease Control, recommendations lack any practical guideline to strengthen health and immunity.

Our macrobiotic recommendations are geared towards strengthening health and immunity to put us in the best possible condition under any circumstances.

These recommendations are good for almost any emergency.

Prevention

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. The best way to prevent illness is, of course, to avoid being exposed to this virus. However, as a reminder, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) always recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, including:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

- Wash your hands often and vigorously with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.

- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

Follow the CDC recommendations for using a face mask:

- CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a face mask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.

- Face masks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others.

- The use of face masks is also crucial for health workers and care takers.
- It is currently flu season, so please get your flu vaccine if you haven't already.
- These are everyday habits that can help prevent the spread of several viruses.

Strengthening Health Institute's Recommendations

Avoid checklist

• High fructose corn syrup, agave nectar and concentrated fruit sweeteners and tropical fruits in temperate climatic regions.

- Meat and especially poultry and eggs. Wild fish is not as much of an issue
- Simple sugars, artificial sweeteners and refined carbohydrates should also be avoided.
- Iced drinks and cold foods such as icecream and yogurt

Dietary checklist

- Eat grains with every meal.
- Have at least one vegetable dish with every meal including breakfast.
- Include a variety of cruciferous vegetables (cabbage, broccoli, arugula, kale, daikon, etc.).
- Try to keep grains and vegetables relatively equal by volume on your plate.
- Have a wide variety of blanched vegetables and steamed greens often or daily.
- Have a variety of other healthful foods including beans, tofu, tempeh, seeds, nuts and fruits.
- Use seaweed in cooking (kombu and wakame) and as side dishes (arame or hiziki).
- Use dried shiitake, dried maitake and other mushrooms in soups and other dishes.

• Have naturally pickled and fermented foods daily including miso or shoyu soup, sauerkraut or kimchi, umeboshi plums, unyeasted sourdough bread, brown rice or apple cider vinegar or umeboshi vinegar.

Lifestyle checklist

- Eat slowly and chew your food well until it is liquid.
- Try not to overeat.
- Walk outside at least 30 minutes a day.
- Rub your entire body gently with a hot, damp cloth daily for about 15 minutes to activate your lymph and circulation and deeply clean your skin.
- Practice breathing, meditation, yoga or chi-kung daily.
- Laugh and have good conversations.
- Reflect on and marvel at nature, its beauty and endless ability to regenerate.
- Help as many people as possible move towards better health.

Naturally alkalizing foods

Whole Grains

Short grain brown rice Medium grain brown rice Barley (hulled) Millet Wheat berries Corn (corn-on-the-cob) Whole oats Rye Buckwheat Long grain brown rice (for hot climates)

Beans & Products

Azuki beans Black soy beans Chick peas-Garbanzos Green or black lentils Dried tofu Fresh tofu Natto Tempeh

Sea Vegetables

Toasted nori sheet Wakame Kombu Arame Hiziki

Use Often Vegetables [1] Green Leafy:

Bok choy Carrot tops Chinese cabbage Collard greens Daikon greens Dandelion greens Kale Leek Mustard greens Parsley Scallion Turnip greens Watercress

[2] Round:

Acorn squash Broccoli Brussels sprouts Buttercup squash Butternut squash Cabbage Cauliflower Hokkaido pumpkin Onion Pumpkin Red cabbage Rutabaga Turnip Shiitake mushroom (dried)

[3] Root: Burdock

Carrots Daikon Dandelion roots Jinenjo Lotus root Parsnip Radish

Use Occasionally Vegetables:

Broccoli Rabe Celery Chives Coltsfoot Cucumber Endive Escarole Green beans Green peas Iceberg lettuce Jerusalem artichoke Kohlrabi Lambsquarters Mushrooms Patty pan squash Romaine lettuce Salsify Snap beans Snow peas Sprouts Summer squash Wax beans

Pickled Vegetables

Pressed pickles Sauerkraut Quick shoyu pickles Quick ume-vinegar pickles Bran or miso-bran pickles Brine pickles Daikon radish pickles: (Takuan) Miso pickles Shoyu pickles

Seasonings & Condiments

Unrefined white sea salt Barley miso (Mugi): aged at least 24 months Brown rice miso (Genmai): aged at least 24 months Shoyu (naturally fermented soy sauce) Umeboshi plum Umeboshi vinegar Lemon

Beverages

Bancha twig tea–kukicha Roasted barley tea Roasted brown rice tea

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1) Pot-Boiled Brown Rice

Serves 4 to 5

Grains have the most adaptability and are the most healing of all foods. Brown rice in particular is the most unique grain for strengthening and immunity

Ingredients

2/3 cups brown rice; washed and soaked.

1/3 cup other grain; Whole grains may be soaked together wit the rice.

*Cracked grains added right before cooking.

2 cups water

1/16 teaspoon of sea salt or 1 square inch of rinsed kombu sea vegetable.

Preparation

Place the soaked rice and soaking water in a pot.

If you are adding any partially refined or cracked grain, add it at this time along with any additional water needed to keep the 1:2 grain to water ratio.

Bring the water to a boil over a medium high flame. When the water begins to boil add a small pinch of sea salt or kombu sea vegetable.

Cover, place a flame deflector under the pot and reduce the heat to the lowest setting. Simmer on low for 1 hour.

Remove the the rice using a moistened wooden paddle and place the rice in a serving bowl. Cover the rice with a bamboo mat until serving time.

Favorite Brown Rice and Grain Combinations

Pearled barley Hato mugi barley Farro Bulgur wheat Sweet brown rice Quinoa Rye

2) Basic Miso Soup

Serves 1+

Miso soup strengthens and activates our digestive systems. Miso helps clean the intestinal villi and creates healthy bacteria and enzymes in the digestive tract. Enjoying miso soup regularly strengthens our digestion and alkalizes our overall condition. Note that miso soup is meant to be brothy, so be conservative when deciding how many vegetables to add!

Ingredients

Wakame sea vegetable, 1 to 2 inches wakame per cup of water

1 to 2 thin slices of root or round vegetables

1/4 cup leafy greens, finely chopped

Miso, use 1/2 to 1 level teaspoon miso per 1 cup water. Be sure to buy your miso from a reputable health food store. Barley miso, brown rice miso, and sweet-tasting brown rice miso are all excellent options. I often use South River brand miso.

1 cup water per serving, plus an additional cup (for two servings, measure out 2 cups water) Scallion, finely chopped for garnish

Preparation

Soak the wakame in water for one to two minutes, or until it is soft enough to cut.

Discard the soaking water and cut the wakame into even pieces.

Measure the water and pour into a stainless steel pot. Place the wakame in the pot, turn on the flame, and bring to a boil.

Add the root, and/or round vegetable and cook for 4 to 5 minutes. While the vegetables are cooking, measure out the miso into a small bowl. Take a small ladle of the

stock and use it to dilute the miso, using a wooden utensil to blend the miso with the stock. The resulting consistency should be thin enough that it will easily dissolve when added back to the pot. Add the leafy greens to the pot, then add the diluted miso to the boiling water.

Turn your flame on its lowest setting and simmer for 3 to 4 minutes.

Place a ladle full of soup in a small bowl, garnish with finely chopped scallions, and serve.

3) Lentil Sweet Vegetable Stew

Serves 6 to 8

Lentils are very strengthening and are commonly found in many grocery stores. Lentils are the most anti-inflammatory bean, or legume. Beans along with greens are the two best sources of calcium and potassium. Cook them together with sweet vegetables to make a delicious nourishing and immune boosting bean stew.

Ingredients

2 cups organic French or brown lentils, sorted and washed Use seasonal sweet vegetables choose from these: Winter squash or parsnip 2 1/2 cups seasonal sweet vegetables; peeled and diced 21/2 cups diced onion 11/2 cups diced carrot Water 1 inch strip rinsed kombu 3/4 teaspoon sea salt Optional: 1.2 teaspoon shoyu

Preparation

Place the onions in a pot with 2 cups water and bring to a boil.

Add the kombu, lower the flame, and simmer the onions for 3 to 4 minutes.

Layer the sweet vegetables on top of the onions, then add the carrots, then add the lentils.

Add enough water to cover the lentils by 2 inches.

Bring the water to a boil. Skim off any excess foam.

Cover the pot, lower the flame, place a flame deflector under the pot, and simmer for 45 minutes. Remove the cover and check the water level. Add more water to just cover the lentils if necessary. Otherwise, use a wooden spoon to fold the top layer of lentils. Re-cover and simmer on low until the lentils are soft, about 1 to 11/2 hours.

Remove the cover and use a wooden utensil to fold the top into the bottom. If the stew is creamy, add the sea salt. If the dish is still a little watery, let simmer uncovered until the liquid is reduced and the lentils are creamy in texture, then add the salt. Fold the top into the bottom to blend all of the ingredients.

Partially cover the pot and simmer for another 15 to 20 minutes.

Add a little shoyu ate the very end and simmer and additional 5 minutes.

4) Quick Steamed Greens2 to 3 leaves serves 1Preparation Time: 1 to 2 minutes

Quick steamed greens are a lightly cooked vegetable dish with more settling energetic qualities. Greens along with beans are the two best sources of calcium and potassium. Steamed greens should be bright, crunchy, and a little deeper in color than blanched greens. Use only one type of leafy green per serving. Broccoli can be considered a leafy green.

Ingredients

Choose napa cabbage, bok choy, watercress, broccoli, or cabbage.

Preparation

Wash the vegetables well to remove unwanted debris and dirt.

Separate the leaves from the stems with a sharp knife.

Cut the stems on an angle. More fibrous stems should be sliced thinly, approximately 1 to 2 inches in length. Juicier stems (such as bok choy or napa cabbage) should be cut thicker, approximately 1/2 to 1 inch in length.

Cut the leaves on an angle, approximately 1 to 2 inches in both length and width.

Place 3/4 to 1 inch of water in the bottom of a pot and place the steamer basket over the pot. Cover and turn the flame to medium-high. When the pot is filled with steam, add the stems to the basket.

Cover and steam for 20 seconds or longer. The more fibrous the stem, the longer you will need to cook them, up to 1 minute in some cases.

Add the leaves, cover and continue steaming for another 30 seconds or longer. Again, the texture of the greens varies according to the vegetable type, the growing season and the environment. When done, the greens should still be crunchy, but they should be tender enough to chew easily.

Remove the greens from the basket and place in a serving dish. Cover with a sushi mat until serving.

Optional: For a an even lighter, more refreshing effect, add a squeeze of fresh lemon on your greens.

Cookware

A stainless steel pot and a steamer basket. I prefer the type of basket that sits on top of the pot made from bamboo or stainless steel over the collapsible steamer baskets that fit inside the pot.

5) Ume-Sho Bancha Tea

Serves 1

Strengthens and alkalize the blood, regulate digestion and circulation and relieve fatigue and weakness.

Ingredients

Hot bancha twig tea 1/2 to 1 umeboshi plum mashed 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon shoyu

Preparation

Put the umeboshi plum and shoyu in a tea cup, add the hot bancha tea and stir well. Drink hot and eat the plum.

Resources

The Ultimate Guide to Eating for Longevity

a practical handbook for lasting health with recipes and menu plans. - Available on Amazon.

The China Study

T. Collin Campbell's book on the relationship between diet and disease.

Strengthening Health Institute (SHI) - Online Educational Seminars

Introductory, Beginners and Intermediate.

Residential seminars Held at St Raphaela Center in Haverford, PA.

Healthy Vacation

Held at Tabacon Luxury Hotel and Spa in Costa Rica with healthy macrobiotic meals. For information and registration: 215-238-9212 or info@shimacrobiotics.org

SHI Macrobiotics Blog

https://shimacrobiotics.org/macrobiotic-blog/

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Personal Counseling with Denny Waxman

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