

APHA Healthy Meeting Guidelines: Physical Activity

The American Public Health Association is one of many organizations that have signed onto the Healthy Meetings Pledge to formalize its commitment to offering healthy options and promoting physical activity and sustainability at our meetings and events. Below are suggestions for incorporating physical activity into your events.

- Have participants to stand up when they're sharing an opinion/idea
- Encourage participants to stretch or get up and walk around during meetings
- Explicitly include a stretch/movement break in your agenda
- Do a 10-minute [Instant Recess activity video](#) during a break
- Provide a ten minute stretch break once per 1.5 hour – Assign a staff person or ask members to rotate leading the stretching. Provide a copy of the stretching handout to meeting attendees.
- Play music for popular group dance song and let the group dance (a few ideas):
 - Macarena
 - The Twist
 - Electric Slide
 - YMCA
 - Twist and Shout
 - The Cupid Shuffle
 - The Wobble
- Play a game like **Simon Says**: One person designated as “Simon” calls out different active commands to get participants moving (hop on one foot, touch your toes, etc.)





OFFICE STRETCHES



Shoulder Stretch
FRONT: interlock fingers in front of body, turn palms away from body. Gently straighten elbows and reach forward.
Hold stretch for 15 seconds



Shoulder Stretch
BACK: interlock fingers behind your back, palms facing upwards. Gently straighten elbows while reaching up and back.
Hold stretch for 15 seconds

Shoulder Pull
 Grab under your right upper arm and pull the arm at shoulder height across your chest. Repeat for other shoulder.
Hold stretch for 15 seconds



Triceps and Shoulder Stretch
 Reach behind your head with elbow bent. Use opposite hand to push downwards on elbow so that your hand moves further down your back. Repeat for other arm.
Hold stretch for 15 seconds



Neck Stretch
 Reach with right hand over your head and shrug your left shoulder. Slowly pull your head away from left shoulder then drop your left shoulder down. Repeat for other side.
Hold for 10 seconds



Neck Flexion
 Interlock hands and place hands on back of head. Pull chin down towards chest.
Hold for 10 seconds

Knee to Chest
 In a seated or standing position with back supported, slowly pull one knee up towards your chest. Repeat for other side.
Hold for 15 seconds



Back Rotation
 Sitting on a chair with left leg crossed over your right leg. Place right hand on left thigh just above knee and pull leg towards right. At the same time turn your body towards the left looking over left shoulder. Repeat for other side.
Hold for 15 seconds

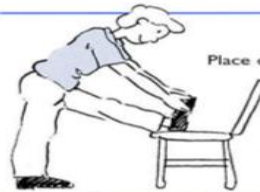


Side Stretch
 While standing, slide right hand down right leg as far as possible, ensuring you are facing straight ahead. Repeat for opposite side.
Hold for 15 seconds

Chest Stretch
 Bend elbows and place hands and forearms on each edge of a doorway at elbow height. With feet shoulder width apart, lean body forward through doorway.
Hold for 15 seconds



Quadriceps Stretch
 Support yourself with left hand on a wall. Grasp left foot with right hand and gently pull heel towards buttocks. Repeat for right side.
Hold for 20 seconds



Hamstring Stretch
 Place one foot on a stable chair or similar height surface. Whilst keeping leg and back straight and pelvis square, lean forwards towards your foot until you feel a stretch in the back of your thigh. Repeat for other leg.
Hold for 15 seconds



Buttocks Stretch
 Sitting on a chair, position right ankle on left knee. Place hands on right lower leg and slowly bend forwards towards legs. Keep back straight. Repeat for other side.
Hold for 15 seconds

Wrist/Forearm Stretch
 With a straight elbow and palm facing upwards, pull hand downwards to stretch the front of your forearm and wrist. Then turn hand over so that your palm is facing downwards and pull hand downwards to stretch the back of your forearm and wrist. Repeat for other arm.
Hold both for 10 seconds



Biceps Stretch
 Hold onto a door frame at arms length, thumb down. Turn the body away from arm and allow your shoulder to roll in. Repeat for other side.
Hold for 15 seconds

