

65 years or older

CANADIAN 24-HOUR MOVEMENT GUIDELINES

FOR ADULTS 65 YEARS OR OLDER:

An Integration of Physical Activity, Sedentary Behaviour, and Sleep

PREAMBLE

This document is intended for use by policy makers, health professionals, and researchers, and it may be useful to interested members of the public.

These 24-Hour Movement Guidelines are relevant to adults aged 65 years or older, irrespective of gender, cultural background, or socio-economic status. These Guidelines may not be appropriate for adults aged 65 years or older living with a disability or a medical condition; these individuals should consider consulting the *Get Active Questionnaire*, disability/condition-specific recommendations, or a health professional for guidance.

Adults aged 65 years or older should participate in a range of physical activities (e.g., weight bearing/non-weight bearing, sport and recreation) in a variety of environments (e.g., home/work/community; indoors/outdoors; land/water) and contexts (e.g., leisure, transportation, occupation, household) across all seasons. Adults aged 65 years or older should limit long periods sedentary behaviours and should practice healthy sleep hygiene (routines, behaviours, and environments conducive to sleeping well).

Following the 24-Hour Movement Guidelines is associated with these health benefits:

- a lower risk of mortality, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, type 2 diabetes, several cancers, anxiety, depression, dementia, weight gain, adverse blood lipid profile, falls and fall-related injuries; and
- improved bone health, cognition, quality of life and physical function.

The benefits of following these Guidelines far exceed potential harms. Following these Guidelines may be challenging at times; progressing towards any of the Guideline targets will result in some health benefits.

These 24-Hour Movement Guidelines were informed by the best available evidence, expert consensus, stakeholder consultation, and consideration of values and preferences, applicability, feasibility, and equity. A glossary and more details on the Guidelines, the background research, their interpretation, guidance on how to achieve them, and recommendations for further research and surveillance are available at <https://csep.ca/guidelines>.

For health benefits, adults aged 65 years or older should be physically active each day, minimize sedentary behaviour, and achieve sufficient sleep.

A healthy 24 hours includes:

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Performing a variety of types and intensities of physical activity, which includes:



- **Moderate to vigorous aerobic physical activities** such that there is an accumulation of at least 150 minutes per week
- Muscle strengthening activities using major muscle groups at least twice a week
- Physical activities that challenge balance



- Several hours of **light physical activities**, including standing

SLEEP



Getting 7 to 8 hours of good-quality sleep on a regular basis, with consistent bed and wake-up times

SEDENTARY BEHAVIOUR



Limiting sedentary time to 8 hours or less, which includes:

- No more than 3 hours of recreational screen time
- Breaking up long periods of sitting as often as possible



Replacing sedentary behaviour with additional physical activity and trading light physical activity for more moderate to vigorous physical activity, while preserving sufficient sleep, can provide greater health benefits.



Progressing towards any of these targets will result in some health benefits.