



NEWS RELEASE

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Plan for healthy eating, no matter the season

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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With all those barbecues and family reunions still to come, you have to keep your eating habits in shape too. Eating healthy, even while on vacation, is a key step to staying healthy, looking great and most importantly, keeping your diabetes in control. Here are some tips from the National Diabetes Education Program and the Alabama Department of Public Health's Diabetes Branch on how to eat healthy and still enjoy all the foods that season has to offer.

At a buffet, start by scanning the table to see what is available. Fill up your plate with mostly vegetables and whole grains. If there are meat dishes, limit your portion to about the size and thickness of a deck of cards. Choose lean meats, poultry or fish instead of high fat meats such as barbecued ribs. Choose grilled chicken (remove the skin) instead of something fried.

Look for high-fiber foods, such as dried beans and peas, lentils and dark green vegetables such as broccoli, cabbage, spinach and kale. Dishes with green beans, three-beans, black beans and black-eyed peas are always good choices as are whole grain foods such as brown rice, couscous, whole wheat bread and pasta.

Watch out for fatty foods. Avoid dishes with a lot of mayonnaise, sour cream and butter. Choose veggies that are light on dressing and cheese. For fun, try making your own dressing with a little olive oil and vinegar. If you make a sandwich, use whole wheat bread with mustard or salsa instead of mayonnaise.

Try to drink water, unsweetened tea, or diet soda with your meal. If you choose to drink alcoholic beverages, drink only with a meal and do not drink more than one (for women) or two (for men) per day.

Don't forget dessert! Dessert is a great opportunity to get in some of your daily fruit intake. Everyone--including people with diabetes--needs three to four servings of fruit a day. Fruit is an excellent source of fiber, vitamins and minerals, and has zero fat. Those pies and cookies taste good, but have a lot of fat and cholesterol and not much nutrition. So, if you can't resist, have a small serving.

Focus on feeling better, eating healthy, and controlling your diabetes for life. For more tips and free materials on diabetes control, visit the National Diabetes Education Program at www.ndep.nih.gov, call 1-800-438-5383 or visit www.adph.org/diabetes.

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