

Caregiving in
The Comfort of Home®

Caregiver Assistance News

“CARING FOR YOU ... CARING FOR OTHERS”

Range of Motion - Exercise

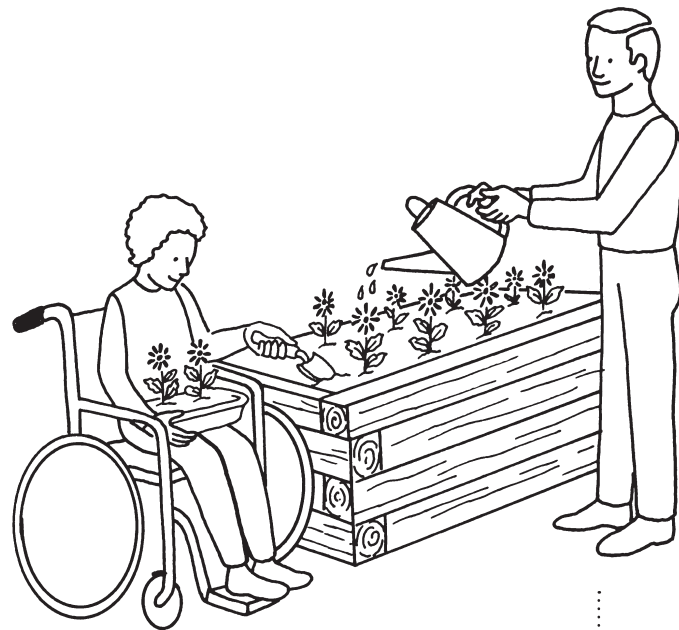
Occupational Therapy

Occupational therapy is designed to help people regain and build skills that are important for functioning on their own. The occupational therapist will help the person evaluate levels of function.

An occupational therapist—

- Tests a person’s strength, range of motion, endurance (the ability to continue an activity or effort), and dexterity (skill in using hands) to do everyday tasks that were done easily before an illness or injury happened.
- Designs a program of activities and solutions that ensure the greatest possible independence.
- Provides training to relearn everyday activities of daily living like eating, grooming, dressing, toileting, bathing, and leisure activities such as gardening.
- Decides whether special equipment is needed, such as wheelchairs, feeding devices, transfer equipment, hand and skin devices.

Physical and occupational therapies are part of the process of relearning how to function after an injury, illness, or period of inactivity. If muscles are not used, they shorten and tighten, making joint motion painful. For the person in your care, these therapies are key to achieving as much



functional independence as possible. Although you may not be asked to assist with these exercises, it is useful for you to know how they help.

The Physical Therapist

A physical therapist treats a person to relieve pain, build up and restore muscle function, and maintain the best possible performance. The therapist does this by using active and passive exercises, massage, heat, water, and electricity. Broadly speaking, a physical therapist:

- ✓ Sets the goals of treatment with patient and family
- ✓ Shows how to use special equipment
- ✓ Instructs in routine daily functions
- ✓ Teaches safe ways to move
- ✓ Sets up and teaches an exercise program

Caregiving in
The Comfort of Home®

Our Purpose

To provide caregivers with critical information enabling them to do their job with confidence, pride, and competence.

Ordering Info

From the publishers of

Caregiving in
The Comfort of Home®
Caregiver Series

available from...

CareTrust Publications LLC
PO Box 10283, Portland, OR 97296
800-565-1533
or www.comfortofhome.com

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SAFETY TIPS— COVID-19 Face Masks

The CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public where social distancing is difficult to maintain. Cloth face coverings should fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face and be secured with ties or ear loops. They should include multiple layers of fabric and allow for easy breathing and be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage to shape. Follow these tips to stay safe:

- Always wash your hands before and after wearing a mask.
- Use the ties or loops to put your mask on and pull it off.
- Do not touch the front of the mask when you take it off.
- For apartment dwellers, put the mask on and remove it while inside your home. Elevators and stairwells can be high-contamination areas.
- Wash and dry your cloth mask daily and keep it in a clean, dry place.

Be careful not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth when removing face covering and wash hands immediately after removing.

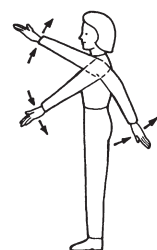
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Range-of-Motion (ROM) Exercises

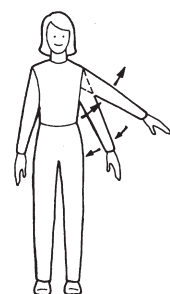
The following information is provided for your general knowledge. It IS NOT a substitute for training with professional therapists.

Use range-of-motion exercises to relieve pain, maintain normal body alignment, help prevent skin swelling and breakdown, and promote bone formation. A ROM exercise program is ideally started before deformities develop.

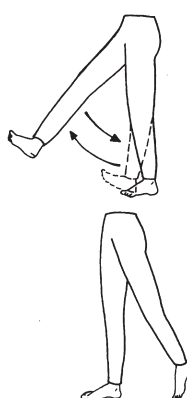
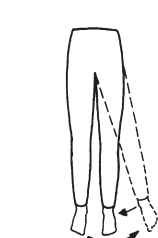
Joints Used in ROM



▲ shoulder



▲ feet, ankle, toe



▲ hip



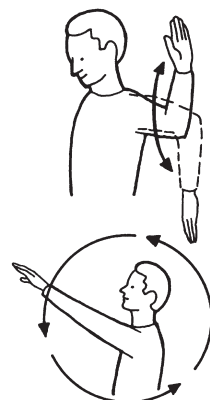
▲ hands



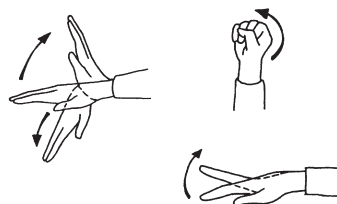
▲ wrists



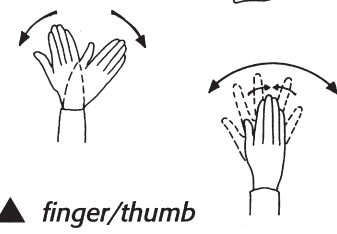
▲ elbows



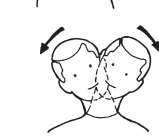
▲ shoulders



▲ finger/thumb



▲ neck



Taking Care of Yourself—Staying Fit While Quarantined at Home

Thanks to social distancing and shelter-in-place orders amid the coronavirus pandemic, it is important to be flexible and creative in exercising. If you enjoyed exercise classes with friends or long walks, in order not to backslide and become sedentary that will affect your health, you now have to be open to an exercise routine in your apartment no matter how small. You don't need a gym, expensive equipment, special clothing or a large space to do many activities at home. The goal during a pandemic is to maintain your fitness level, not increase it.

Older adults should combine moderate aerobic activity with balance and muscle-strengthening exercises. Balance and muscle mass deteriorate as people age.

Source: [NextAvenue.org](https://www.nextavenue.org/coronavirus-fitness-home); [CNN exercise](https://www.cnn.com/exercise)



Inspiration

People resist change but embrace progress.

Live Life Laughing!

So I say, wash your hands like you just got done slicing jalapeños for nachos and you need to take your contacts out.



Memory Care - Alzheimer's Gestures & Cues

When helping a person with any activity, first give verbal instruction, then use visual gestures and finally, touch. It may be effective to combine a verbal cue with a gesture so that the person can get the information in more than one way. For instance, if you want the person to stand up, you can ask her to stand up, raise your hands up in a matching gesture and then if necessary touch her arm or leg.