

**Boosting your immune system with Angela Emmerton** 



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### Your presenter Today:

Angela Emmerton Nutritionist (BHSc nutritional medicine) www.nutritionalmatters.com.au



## What we'll cover

- How your immune system works
- Foods that build a strong immune
- The importance of Gut health
- How stress and poor sleep can compromise your immune
- My 6 tips to help you and your family stay WELL this winter
- Natural Remedies to fight a cold (for all ages)
- Immune boosting nutrients

Q & A





#### Immune system

- The immune system is indispensable It protects the body from harmful substances, removes foreign substances, germs and manages cell changes to prevent sickness
- It is made up of various organs (digestion & skin) and cells
- Lymphocytes (T-cells, B-cells and NK cells), neutrophils, and monocytes/macrophages. These are all types of white blood cells (eating cells)
- The adaptive (specific) immune system makes antibodies to fight specific germs known as acquired (learned) immune response





### **Lines of defence**

- Skin and mucous membranes like night club 'bouncers' - decide who can come into the body and who to turn away
- The stickiness of mucous acts like a trap
- Chemicals in our tears, nasal secretions and stomach acid helps to kill bacteria
- Urine helps flush toxins out of the body
- **Vomiting** expels microbes
- Digestive system (digestive enzymes) help break down the microbial cell



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# Six tips - healthy immune



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### 1. Gut health

- The gut is packed with around 70% of the body's immune cells– functioning as the immune systems 'control tower'
- Research reports that foods high in soluble fibre; i.e. oats, nuts, and apples, improve immune function
- Why? because a diet high in fibre feeds the gut microbiome
- Build a population of good guys!
- Include fermented foods; e.g. kombucha (homemade), sauerkraut, yoghurt, kefir, miso, etc.



### 2. Eat real food

- Food is the building blocks for all our cells - our bones, organs, brain, nerve cells and of course our immune cells...
- For a HEALTHY IMMUNE SYSTEM, we need our focus to be on eating healthy with whole foods
- A Wholefood Diet consists of foods as close to nature as possible – Abundant fresh veggies, fruits, protein and healthy fats
- Minimal to No processed foods and avoiding sugar (competes with vitamin C) can put your white blood cells into a temporary coma – weakening your immune



### 3. Immune boosting nutrients

- Vitamin D sunshine
- Vitamin A betacarotene
- 🥏 Vitamin C *citrus*
- Zinc –(balances inflammation)
- A deficiency in any of these nutrients means a less powerful army inside you to fight infection





#### 4. Movement

- Moving our muscles moves our Lymph fluid around the body, bathing our cells and removing wastes.
- And what lives in our Lymph tissue? Our immune cells!
- Helps fights disease, is anti-ageing and keeps our cells fit and healthy
- Find a way to keep exercising even through winter





### 5. Sleep

Winter is natures time to pause (think hibernation)

Follow the sun's rhythm - earlier to bed, earlier to rise.

7-9 hours of sleep a night is key

Hormones, chemicals and proteins that fight off infection are released while we sleep

It's the time our body repairs and heals

Starting to feel sick? The BEST remedy is a few good nights of SLEEP!



#### 6. Ways to manage stress

Finding ways to reduce the impact of stress is essential not just for immune health, but for overall health in general

Enjoy a walk in nature (research has proven this one time and time again!)

Yoga and mediation, even home practice (Yogaholics.com.au – Headspace)

 Taking regular breaks – ideally going somewhere warm, to help increase vitamin
D levels - key for a strong immune system

AND follow the six tips - look after your Gut health, Eat well, Move and Sleep more, and ensure you have no Nutrient deficiencies...Can you see a pattern here? ;-



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### **Home remedies**

- Fighting a cold or virus
- Warm body and Warm foods...
- Rug up, warm baths and showers, steam - encourage body to sweat out (excrete) toxics
- Soups and Hot teas (herbal)
- Garlic crushed to activate (antimicrobial)
- Essential nutrients
- Eucalyptus essential oil / few drops in the shower





### Finally, go with the flow

Focus on what you can control

Come out of these unique times, feeling healthier and stronger!



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# **Questions?**



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