Regular physical activity is fun and healthy, and increasingly more people are starting to become more active every day. Being more active is very safe for most people. However, some people should check with their doctor before they start becoming much more physically active.

If you are planning to become much more physically active than you are now, start by answering the seven questions in the box below. If you are between the ages of 15 and 69, the PAR-Q will tell you if you should check with your doctor before you start. If you are over 69 years of age, and you are not used to being very active, check with your doctor.

Common sense is your best guide when you answer these questions. Please read the questions carefully and answer each one honestly: check YES or NO.

If you answered YES to one or more questions

Talk with your doctor by phone or in person BEFORE you start becoming much more physically active or BEFORE you have a fitness appraisal. Tell your doctor about the PAR-Q and which questions you answered YES.

- You may be able to do any activity you want — as long as you start slowly and build up gradually. Or, you may need to restrict your activities to those which are safe for you. Talk with your doctor about the kinds of activities you wish to participate in and follow his/her advice.
- Find out which community programs are safe and helpful for you.

If you answered NO to all questions

If you answered NO honestly to all PAR-Q questions, you can be reasonably sure that you can:

- start becoming much more physically active — begin slowly and build up gradually. This is the safest and easiest way to go.
- take part in a fitness appraisal — this is an excellent way to determine your basic fitness so that you can plan the best way for you to live actively. It is also highly recommended that you have your blood pressure evaluated. If your reading is over 144/94, talk with your doctor before you start becoming much more physically active.

DELAY BECOMING MUCH MORE ACTIVE:

- if you are not feeling well because of a temporary illness such as a cold or a fever — wait until you feel better; or
- if you are or may be pregnant — talk to your doctor before you start becoming more active.

PLEASE NOTE: If your health changes so that you then answer YES to any of the above questions, tell your fitness or health professional. Ask whether you should change your physical activity plan.

Informed Use of the PAR-Q: The Canadian Society for Exercise Physiology, Health Canada, and their agents assume no liability for persons who undertake physical activity, and if in doubt after completing this questionnaire, consult your doctor prior to physical activity.

No changes permitted. You are encouraged to photocopy the PAR-Q but only if you use the entire form.

I have read, understood and completed this questionnaire. Any questions I had were answered to my full satisfaction.

NAME ________________________________

SIGNATURE ________________________________  DATE ________________

SIGNATURE OF PARENT or GUARDIAN (for participants under the age of majority) ________________________________  WITNESS ________________________________

Note: This physical activity clearance is valid for a maximum of 12 months from the date it is completed and becomes invalid if your condition changes so that you would answer YES to any of the seven questions.
Physical activity improves health.

Every little bit counts, but more is even better – everyone can do it!

Get active your way – build physical activity into your daily life...

• at home
• at school
• at work
• at play
• on the way...

...that’s active living!

For a copy of the Guide Handbook and more information: 1-888-334-9769, or www.paguide.com

Physical activity doesn’t have to be very hard. Build physical activities into your daily routine.

• Walk whenever you can – get off the bus early, use the stairs instead of the elevator.
• Get up from the couch and stretch and bend for a few minutes every hour.
• Play actively with your kids.
• Choose to walk, wheel or cycle for short trips.

Starting slowly is very safe for most people. Not sure? Consult your health professional.

Canada’s Physical Activity Guide to Healthy Living: Eating to Healthy Active Living

Increase

Endurance Activities

Flexibility

Strength

Reduce

Sitting for long periods

Eating well is also important. Follow Canada’s Food Guide to Healthy Eating: Eating to make wise food choices.

Physical activity Readiness Questionnaire (PAR-Q)

The original PAR-Q was developed by the British Columbia Ministry of Health. It has been revised by an Expert Advisory Committee of the Canadian Society for Exercise Physiology chaired by Dr. N. Gledhill (2002).

For more information, please contact the:

Canadian Society for Exercise Physiology
202-185 Somerset Street West
Ottawa, ON K2P 0J2
Tel. 1-877-651-3755 • FAX (613) 234-3565
Online: www.csep.ca

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FITNESS AND HEALTH PROFESSIONALS MAY BE INTERESTED IN THE INFORMATION BELOW:

The following companion forms are available for doctors’ use by contacting the Canadian Society for Exercise Physiology (address below):

The Physical Activity Readiness Medical Examination (PARmed-X) – to be used by doctors with people who answer YES to one or more questions on the PAR-Q.

The Physical Activity Readiness Medical Examination for Pregnancy (PARmed-X for Pregnancy) – to be used by doctors with pregnant patients who wish to become more active.

References:


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