World Health Day tip for nurses: toast yourself with several lots of water to keep dehydration at bay

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Dietitian says adequate hydration is critical to keep energy levels up in increased work stress.

PRAIRIE VIEW, Texas — With the increase work pressure first responders are experiencing during this coronavirus pandemic, today's World Health Day is a great time to not only recognize nurses and midwives for their work but also to remind them to stay hydrated with the best liquid: water.

Christine Ranieri, MS, RD, LD, is the director of the Didactic Program in Dietetics at Prairie View A&M University. She is a lecturer in the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences, Department of Agriculture, Nutrition, and Human Ecology.

Ranieri offers simple yet critical advice to nurses on this World Health Day:

"During long shifts and increased work stress, it is crucial to remain adequately hydrated to keep your energy level up, avoid brain fog, and prevent headaches. And while coffee and tea are hydrating, it's best to limit them to a cup per day so their diuretic effects don't cause dehydration."

"It is also best to completely avoid alcohol. While many of us turn to alcohol for relaxation after a long day at work, its toxic effects interfere with sleep, hydration, and the maximum immunological defenses all healthcare providers need more than ever right now."

For more information or to have Christine for a story or in a program, contact Christine Ranieri, MS, RD, LD, office: (936) 261-2531, mobile: 847-208-3880, email: chranieri@pvamu.edu.

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