

BLOOD PRESSURE MEASUREMENT INSTRUCTIONS

USE A VALIDATED MONITOR. ASK YOUR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER OR PHARMACIST FOR HELP.

IN THE 30 MINUTES BEFORE YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE IS TAKEN:

- NO SMOKING.
- NO EXERCISE.
- NO CAFFEINATED BEVERAGES.
- NO ALCOHOL.

FOR 5 MINUTES BEFORE YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE IS TAKEN:

- SIT STILL IN A CHAIR.

RIGHT BEFORE:

- MAKE SURE THE CUFF IS THE RIGHT SIZE.
- WRAP IT JUST ABOVE THE BEND IN THE ELBOW.
- WRAP IT AGAINST SKIN, NOT OVER CLOTHING.

WHILE YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE IS BEING TAKEN:

- RELAX.
- DON'T TALK.
- REST THE CUFFED ARM COMFORTABLY ON A FLAT SURFACE (LIKE A TABLE) AT HEART LEVEL.
- SIT UPRIGHT, BACK STRAIGHT AND SUPPORTED.
- KEEP LEGS UNCROSSED AND FEET FLAT ON THE FLOOR.

AFTER:

- IF AT HOME, WAIT ONE MINUTE AND TAKE A SECOND READING. AVERAGE THE READINGS.
- CONSIDER A THIRD READING.

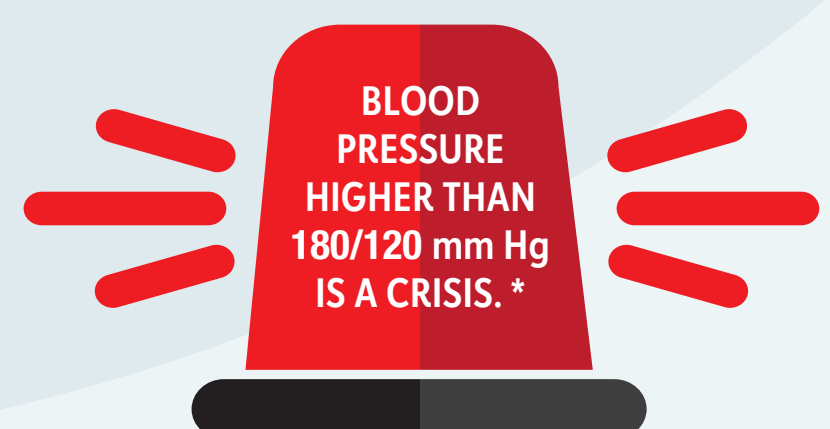
RECOMMENDATIONS:

- KEEP A JOURNAL. BRING IT TO EVERY CHECKUP.
- HAVE YOUR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER CHECK YOUR MONITOR ANNUALLY.

GoRedforWomen.org

American Heart Association recommended blood pressure levels

BLOOD PRESSURE CATEGORY	SYSTOLIC mm Hg (upper number)		DIASTOLIC mm Hg (lower number)
NORMAL	LESS THAN 120	and	LESS THAN 80
ELEVATED	120-129	and	LESS THAN 80
HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE (HYPERTENSION) STAGE 1	130-139	or	80-89
HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE (HYPERTENSION) STAGE 2	140 OR HIGHER	OR	90 OR HIGHER
HYPERTENSIVE CRISIS (consult your doctor immediately)	HIGHER THAN 180	and/or	HIGHER THAN 120



*Wait five minutes and take your blood pressure again. If your readings are still high, contact your healthcare provider immediately.

**LEARN MORE AT
[HEART.ORG/HBP](https://heart.org/HBP)**