# **Stress Continuum Model**

# **READY**

# **REACTING**

# **INJURED**

# ILL

#### **DEFINITION**

- · Optimal functioning
- Adaptive growth
- Wellness



# **FEATURES**

- · At one's best
- Well-trained and prepared
- In control
- Physically, mentally and spiritually fit
- Mission-focused
- Motivated
- Calm and steady
- Having fun
- Behaving ethically

#### **DEFINITION**

- Mild and transient distress or impairment
- Always goes away
- Low risk

#### **CAUSES**

Any stressor



#### **FEATURES**

- Feeling irritable, anxious, or down
- Loss of motivation
- · Loss of focus
- · Difficulty sleeping
- Muscle tension or other changes
- Not having fun

#### **DEFINITION**

- More severe and persistent distress or impairment
- · Leaves an emotional scar
- Higher risk

#### CAUSES

- Life threat
- Loss
- Moral injury
- Wear and tear

#### **FEATURES**

- Loss of control
- Panic, rage or depression
- No longer feeling like normal self
- Excessive guilt, shame or blame

#### DEFINITION

- Clinical mental disorder
- Unhealed stress injury causing life impairment

#### TYPES

- PTSD
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Substance abuse

#### **FEATURES**

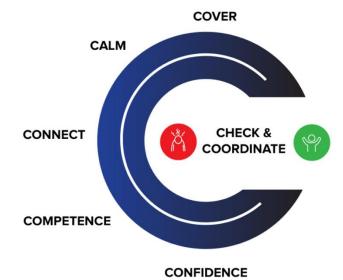
- Symptoms persist and worsen over time
- Severe distress or social or occupational impairment
- Hopelessness



# Examples of Wellness Strategies Using the 7 Cs of Stress First Aid.







**Check:** Which zone of the Stress Continuum are you in today?

<u>Coordinate</u>: Check out the MedStar wellbeing resources at the QR code above or medstarhealth.org/wellbeing.

<u>Cover</u>: Imagine yourself in a place you feel completely safe – create a vivid image of the place in your mind, imagine what you would see, hear, smell, feel, taste there.

<u>Calm</u>: Take a few slow, deep breaths. Try to release muscle tension with each exhale.

**Connect:** Talk to a trusted friend or colleague – never worry alone!

 $\underline{\textbf{Competence}}\textsc{:}$  Focus on one next step to solve a problem or lighten your load.

<u>Confidence</u>: Remind yourself of a reason you do your job or an important value in your life.