



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Mushrooms Blend Perfectly into New Dietary Guidelines

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** (December 29, 2020) – Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA) with the goal to “Make Every Bite Count.” Mushrooms, classified as a vegetable in the DGA, are uniquely positioned to reach this goal as they are a nutrient-dense food that is low in calories and sodium, have no fat and provide vitamins, minerals and other health-promoting components<sup>1</sup>.

The 2020-2025 DGA provides four overarching Guidelines that encourage healthy eating patterns at each stage of life and recognize that individuals will need to make shifts in their food choices to achieve a healthy pattern. The four tenets include:

1. Follow a healthy dietary pattern at every life stage.
2. Customize and enjoy nutrient-dense food and beverage choices to reflect personal preferences, cultural traditions and budgetary considerations.
3. Focus on meeting food group needs with nutrient-dense foods and beverages and stay within calorie limits.
4. Limit foods and beverages higher in added sugar, saturated fat, and sodium, and limit alcoholic beverages.

Food and nutrition play a crucial role in health promotion and chronic disease prevention. Every five years since 1980, HHS and USDA publish the DGA, the U.S. go-to source for nutrition guidance. The latest edition of the DGA reflects the current body of nutrition science, helps health professionals and policymakers guide Americans to make healthy food and beverage choices, and serves as the science-based foundation for vital nutrition policies and programs across the United States.

Throughout the multi-year process to develop the DGA, the Mushroom Council and mushroom growers have submitted written comments, given oral testimony and shared information with the staff at the HHS and USDA.

## MAKING EVERY BITE COUNT

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025*. 9th Edition. December 2020. Available at [DietaryGuidelines.gov](https://www.dietaryguidelines.gov).

New research<sup>2</sup> from the Mushroom Council supports the DGA in increasing vegetable consumption by adding more mushrooms to the diet. Dr. Victor L. Fulgoni III and Dr. Sanjiv Agarwal examined the addition of mushrooms to USDA Food Patterns which resulted in the increase of several micronutrients including shortfall nutrients, while having a minimal to zero impact on overall calories, sodium or saturated fat.

The study looked at the nutritional effect of substituting a serving of various foods recommended to be moderated in the diet by the previous U.S. Dietary Guidelines or Dietary Guidelines 2015-2020 with an 84 g serving of mushrooms (five medium white button mushrooms) on nutrient profiles in USDA's Healthy U.S.-Style, Mediterranean and Vegetarian Eating Patterns. This is a similar approach that the USDA used for determining its Guidelines.

Simply adding five medium mushrooms, or one 84-gram serving, to USDA Food Patterns increased several shortfall nutrients including potassium (8% DV) and fiber (3% DV) as well as other B vitamins and minerals and had minimal to no impact on overall calories, sodium or saturated fat. This discovery falls in line with USDA's "Make Every Bite Count" campaign to support the 2020-2025 DGA.

<h2 style="text-align: center;">JUST ADD MUSHROOMS</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">ADDITION OF A SERVING (84G, FIVE MEDIUM WHITE BUTTON MUSHROOMS) TO USDA FOOD PATTERNS, EACH AT 2,000 CALORIE LEVELS</p>	
Vitamin D (UV-light exposed to provide 50% of the Daily Value)	70-90% increase
Niacin	13-26% increase
Copper	13-22% increase
Riboflavin	14-15% increase
Potassium	9-11% increase
Fiber	2-6% increase
Calories	1% increase
Sodium	<1% increase

<sup>2</sup> Agarwal S, Fulgoni III V, Modeling the Nutritional Impact of Adding Mushrooms to USDA Food Patterns, Current Developments in Nutrition, Volume 4, Issue Supplement\_2, June 2020, Page 501, [https://doi.org/10.1093/cdn/nzaa046\\_001](https://doi.org/10.1093/cdn/nzaa046_001)

## NUTRIENT DENSITY

Long celebrated as a superfood source of powerful nutrients, fresh mushrooms are a healthy addition to the plate. Mushrooms provide many of the same nutritional benefits as vegetables, as well as attributes commonly found in meat, beans and grains. A single serving of white button mushrooms (90g) has 20 calories and 0g fat, and is an excellent source of B vitamins, including riboflavin, pantothenic acid and niacin.

## THE BLEND™

Blending mushrooms with meat has been a top trend for the past few years and it doesn't look to be slowing down. The Blend™, the practice of blending finely chopped fresh mushrooms with ground meat, is a great way to add more nutrient-dense vegetables to the plate while also adding flavor. One of the reasons for its popularity is that it doesn't sacrifice flavor for nutrition, in fact, the mushrooms add more than just nutrients but also umami.

A 2014 study<sup>3</sup> from the Culinary Institute of America and University of California-Davis, explored the flavor-enhancing properties of mushrooms and found that blending finely chopped mushrooms with ground meat enhances flavor and nutrition. As the study shows, a traditional ground meat recipe prepared with 50 percent mushrooms and 50 percent meat (or even 80 percent mushrooms and 20 percent meat) can:

- Reduce calorie, fat and sodium intake, while adding nutrients like vitamin D, potassium (6% DV) and B vitamins.
- Enhance the overall flavor, because of double the impact of umami.
- Maintain flavor while reducing sodium intake by 25 percent.

## IMMUNE SUPPORT

Mushrooms sport two important nutrients important for maintaining a healthy immune system. The first is vitamin D. Mushrooms are the only source of vitamin D in the produce aisle. Just 5 UV-light exposed mushrooms (90g) contain more than a full day's recommended allowance (118%) of vitamin D<sup>4</sup>. The second is selenium. This mineral may not get as much hype as other antioxidants, but that doesn't mean it's not essential. In fact, selenium plays a role in preventing cell damage<sup>5</sup> which is important for supporting a healthy immune system. To learn more about how mushrooms and other vegetables and fruits can support a healthy immune system, visit <https://www.mushroomcouncil.com/feed-your-immune-system/>.

Nutrition Facts	
1 serving	
Serving size 5 medium mushrooms (90g)	
Amount per serving	
<b>Calories</b>	<b>20</b>
%	
Daily Value*	
<b>Total Fat</b> 0g	<b>0%</b>
Saturated Fat 0g	<b>0%</b>
Trans Fat 0g	<b>0%</b>
<b>Cholesterol</b> 0mg	<b>0%</b>
<b>Sodium</b> 5mg	<b>0%</b>
<b>Total Carbohydrate</b> 3g	<b>0%</b>
Dietary Fiber 1g	<b>4%</b>
Total Sugars 2g	
Includes 0g Added Sugars	<b>0%</b>
<b>Protein</b> 3g	
Vitamin D 0.18mcg	1%
Calcium 3mg	0%
Iron 0.45mg	3%
Potassium 286mg	6%
Copper 0.285mg	32%
Selenium 8.35mg	15%
Riboflavin (B-2) 0.36mg	28%
Pantothenic Acid (B-5) 1.345mg	27%
Niacin (B-3) 3.245mg	20%

\*The % Daily Value (DV) tells you how much a nutrient in a serving of food contributes to a daily diet. 2,000 calories a day is used for general nutrition advice.

<sup>3</sup> Myrdal Miller, A., Mills, K., Wong, T., Drescher, G., Lee, S.M., Sirimuangmoon, C., Schaefer, S., Langstaff, S., Minor, B. and Guinard, J.-X. (2014), Flavor-Enhancing Properties of Mushrooms in Meat-Based Dishes in Which Sodium Has Been Reduced and Meat Has Been Partially Substituted with Mushrooms. Journal of Food Science, 79: S1795–S1804. doi: 10.1111/1750-3841.12549

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service. FoodData Central, 2019. fdc.nal.usda.gov.

<sup>5</sup> U.S. National Library of Medicine. Selenium in Diet. <https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002414.htm>

**About the Mushroom Council**

The Mushroom Council® is composed of fresh market producers or importers who average more than 500,000 pounds of mushrooms produced or imported annually. The mushroom program is authorized by the Mushroom Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act of 1990 and is administered by the Mushroom Council under the supervision of the Agricultural Marketing Service. Research and promotion programs help to expand, maintain and develop markets for individual agricultural commodities in the United States and abroad. These industry self-help programs are requested and funded by the industry groups that they serve. For more information, visit [mushroomcouncil.com](http://mushroomcouncil.com).