# Foods Lower in Carbohydrates 

## Protein:

Protein helps your body build muscle and support growth. These foods have very few carbohydrates, so they do not cause your blood sugars to increase.

- The serving size for meals is approx. 3 ounces (the size of a deck of cards).
- The serving size for snacks is approx. 1 ounce (the size of your thumb).

| Beef | Fish or seafood | Beans and legumes (source of carbs) |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Chicken or turkey | Egg/egg substitute | Nuts and nut butters |
| Pork or ham | Cottage Cheese | Plain Greek yogurt |
| Sausage | Cheese |  |
| Lamb | Tofu |  |
| Lunchmeat | Meat substitutes |  |

Tips:

- Choose seafood 2-3 times per week
- Eat plant-based protein more often
- Keep it tasty \& healthy by grilling, roasting, broiling, baking or use a slow cooker!


## Fats:

Fats provide essential nutrients. Your body also needs fats to absorb certain vitamins. They have a neutral effect on sugars.

- Single serving sizes listed below.

| Healthy | Less Healthy Fats |
| :--- | :--- |
| Avocado, 2 tbsp | Bacon, 1 slice |
| Nuts, 4-6 each | Butter, 1 tsp |
| Seeds, 1 tbsp | Cream, 2 tbsp |
| Peanut butter, 1 tbsp | Cream cheese, 1 tbsp |
| Olives, 8-10 each | Sour cream, 2 tbsp |
| Olive Oil, 1 tsp | Gravy, 2 tbsp |
| Salad dressing, 1 tbsp | Shortening, 1 tsp |

## Vegetables:

Vegetables are a good source of vitamins, minerals and fiber. They add color and flavor to meals. Non-starchy vegetables do contain small amounts of carbohydrates but will not raise your blood sugar unless you eat a large portion. Try to eat at least 3-5 vegetable servings each day.

- One serving of vegetables is $1 / 2$ cup cooked or 1 cup uncooked.

| Asparagus | Cabbage | Mushrooms | Tomatoes | Cauliflower |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Green beans | Cucumber | Okra | Zucchini | Carrots |
| Beets | Eggplant | Radishes | Pea Pods | Onion |
| Broccoli | Greens | Sauerkraut | Peppers |  |
| Brussels sprouts | Jicama | Spinach | Celery |  |

Tips:

- Cook fresh or frozen vegetables in the microwave for a quick \& easy dish.
- Pre-cut and pre-package your veggies for a snack when time is limited.
- Choose vegetables rich in color
- Stock up on canned vegetables labeled "reduced sodium", "low sodium" or "no salt added"
- Try reduced or low sodium vegetable soups
- Ask for an extra side of vegetables when eating out
- Buy seasonal vegetables
- Try something new
- Try crunchy vegetables instead of chips
- Grill colorful vegetable kabobs

