Life is full of changes. It is common to get the blues or go through a difficult phase, however depression is more than just feeling sad. It is a serious mental health condition that requires understanding and professional help.

**Know the symptoms**
Depression can have different symptoms depending on the person, but in most people, a depressive disorder changes how they function day-to-day, and usually for more than two weeks.

Learn the **FACTS:**
- **Feelings:** Being extremely sad and hopeless, losing interest or enjoyment from most daily activities
- **Actions:** Exhibiting restlessness or feeling that moving takes great effort, having difficulty focusing, concentrating on things or making decisions
- **Changes:** Gaining or losing weight due to changes in appetite, changing sleep patterns, experiencing body aches, pain or stomach problems
- **Threats:** Talking about death or suicide, attempting suicide or self-harm
- **Situations:** Experiencing traumatic events or major life changes, having a medical problem or family history of depression

**Take action**
If someone says they feel depressed, your support and encouragement can play an important role in their recovery. Depression is often treatable.
- **Ask:** “When did you start to feel that way?” “Did something happen that made you feel that way?” Being supportive involves listening and offering encouragement and hope.
- **Stay calm:** If your family member or friend is in a crisis, it’s important to remain calm. Listen to their concerns and make them feel understood—then find a way to get them help.
- **Be there:** Speak honestly and kindly. Tell them you care. Listen carefully and learn what they are thinking and feeling.
- **Help them connect:** Offer to help them find a doctor and go with them on the first visit. Suggest that they make a list of symptoms and ailments to discuss at the appointment.
- **Stay connected:** Ask your loved one to join you on a walk, see a movie with you or work with you on a hobby or other activity they previously enjoyed.

For more information and helpful resources, visit MagellanHealthcare.com/Mental-Health.

Sources: NAMI.org, NIMH.NIH.gov