## Reading a Nutrition Label

Serving Information: First take a look at the Serving Information. This tells you the number of servings in the package (servings per container), and the serving size. The serving size is provided in units that are easy to compare across different foods like cups, tablespoons, or pieces, and also in metric units like grams (g). The serving size shows the amount that people usually eat or drink, NOT the amount that is recommended to eat or drink.

Calories: Calories are the amount of energy you get from a serving of food. For example, you consume 230 calories if you eat 1 serving, but if you eat the whole container, you consume 230 calories $\times 8$ servings, or 1,840 calories. To maintain a healthy weight, you should aim for a balance of the calories you eat and drink with the calories your body uses as energy. The general nutrition advice is to consume 2,000 calories per day, but your calorie needs may be different depending on your age, sex, height, weight, and physical activity level. Visit the link below to learn your estimated calorie needs.

Percent Daily Value (\%DV): This section tells you how much the nutrients like saturated fat, sodium, added sugar, and dietary fiber in one serving of food contribute to your daily diet. $5 \% \mathrm{DV}$ or less is considered low, and $20 \%$ DV or more is considered high.
Nutrients: This section of the nutrition label shows some key nutrients that impact your health. Using this section can help you get more of the nutrients you want to get more of, and limit the nutrients you want to get less of.

- Nutrients to get more of: Dietary fiber, Vitamin D, Calcium, Iron, and Potassium
- Nutrients to get less of: Saturated fat, Added sugar, and Sodium
Footnote: The footnote explains that the \% Daily Value tells you how much a nutrient in one serving of food contributes to a daily diet, and that 2,000 calories a day is used for general nutrition advice.

Find more cooking and health tips at: AbiRebuildHealth.org

