



**Long-Term Care Interim Guidance  
3/27/2020 (subject to change)**

**Nebulizer Treatments for COVID19 Confirmed Positive or Suspected Cases**

- **First, consult a healthcare provider to determine if metered-dose inhalers with spacer chambers are a viable option for therapy instead of nebulizers.**
- If inhalers are not a viable option and nebulizers are the only option available, the following procedure will be followed for nebulizer treatments.
- Ideally, the resident should be in a single room. If no single rooms are available, roommate(s) should be removed from the room before administering nebulizer treatment to the resident.
- Cracking a window during treatment will allow air to circulate and reduce droplet particles.
- Another strategy to improve room ventilation and reduce air particles is to place a fan in the window. The fan should blow towards the outside (backward). The fan should run during the nebulizer treatment and for an additional 10 minutes post-procedure.
- **If a resident is unable to hold or self-administer nebulizer, healthcare staff must wear full PPE required for Droplet and Contact Precautions (gown, facemask, goggles, or face shield, and gloves).**

If a resident can hold and self-administer nebulizer treatments, follow the procedure below. **Having the resident hold and self-administer the nebulizer treatment conserves gown use AND provides additional protection for the healthcare worker.**

1. Gather supplies necessary for treatment
2. Perform hand hygiene (soap/water or alcohol-based hand rub)
3. Prepare nebulizer treatment
4. Perform hand hygiene (soap/water or alcohol-based hand rub)
5. Don (put on) facemask, goggles or face shield, and gloves (no gown required)
6. Draw curtain around the resident
7. Crack a window if able (even a small amount will help circulate air). Ideally, place a fan in the window (facing backward) and turn on the fan during the treatment.
8. If a resident can hold and self-administer nebulizer treatment, HCW may exit the room until treatment is complete
9. Remove PPE at the door (gloves, goggles or face shield, and facemask)
10. Exit room and close door
11. Perform hand hygiene (soap/water or alcohol-based hand rub)

After nebulizer treatment HCW will:

1. Perform hand hygiene (soap/water or alcohol-based hand rub)
2. Don (put on) facemask, goggles or face shield, and gloves (no gown required if HCW leaves the room during treatment)
3. Dispose of or put away treatment supplies.
4. Disinfect all surfaces around residents with EPA registered products effective against the COVID19 virus. Routine cleaning of curtains per facility policy.

5. Let the window stay cracked or leave the fan running for an additional 10 minutes post-procedure to reduce air particles.
6. Leave curtain drawn around the resident for 10 minutes if a window or fan was used during treatment. If no window was cracked or no fan was used, the curtain should remain around the resident for 1-hour before opening.
7. Roommates should not return to the room until the 10 minutes or 1-hour timeframe has lapsed (depending on if window or fan was used).
8. Remove PPE at the door (gloves, goggles or face shield, and facemask)
9. Perform hand hygiene (soap/water or alcohol-based hand rub)
10. Exit room