

Care Recommendations for the Home-Based Ventilation Patient Undergoing Therapy for Known or Suspected Respiratory Viral Infection With COVID-19

If you need to go to the hospital

- Bring your own respiratory equipment(s).
- Provide a summary sheet of the respiratory equipment you are using (ventilator, cough assist, nebulizer, suction).
- Have your caregiver/family with you as hospital staff may be unfamiliar with your respiratory and nonrespiratory needs.
- Notify hospital staff of alternate communicative methods you use at home.

COVID-19 affects lungs impairing oxygen levels

- NIPPV is necessary due to neuromuscular respiratory impairment.
- Oxygen plus NIPPV may prevent the need for intubation and invasive mechanical ventilation if your condition is not severe.
- Notify hospital staff of your advanced directives.
- Remind staff that you are dependent on NIPPV at home.
- With increased lung involvement, intubation may be needed for life support until the infection clears.

Ventilator and mask changes to limit infectious particle dispersion

- Confer with hospital staff about changing to a closed system: double lumen circuit for ventilator and nonvented full-face mask.
- Add additional viral/bacterial filter between device tubing and mask.
- Limiting infectious particle dispersion to those around you, including staff, may allow continued use of NIPPV plus oxygen if you are not severely ill.