

TRACHEOSTOMY EMERGENCY SCENARIOS

CARING FOR THE STUDENT WITH A TRACHEOSTOMY IN THE SCHOOL SETTING

1. Rescue Breathing

Scenario:

You have a 5-year-old at one of your schools who has a tracheostomy tube and is on a ventilator. You receive a call from the student's para that his ventilator is alarming and she does not know why. She tells you the student looks scared and is struggling to breath.

You happen to be in the building so you run to the classroom to find the student working hard to breath with slightly cyanotic lips. The student is on a pulse ox and sats are reading 75%. How should you proceed?

Anticipated Steps	Performed Correctly	Notes for instructor
Check responsiveness Tap child: Are you ok Briefly consider if you need to call 911 or if you can intervene quickly	Y/N	The child is awake and alert but is dusky and struggling to breathe. Pulse ox is at 75%.
Check placement of tracheostomy	Y/N	Trach is in place.
Suction trach	Y/N	No difficulty with suctioning noticed. Minimal amount of secretions out with suctioning.
Take child off of vent and begin providing rescue breaths 1 breath every 5-6 seconds Verbalizes component of monometer	Y/N	No difficulty with bagging. After a few breaths student's sats increase to 90% and lips return to pink. Student is no longer struggling to breath.
Go down tubing and check if all is in place and connected and that vent is working properly	Y/N	Tubing is disconnected near the heater.
Reconnect the tubing while continuing to provide rescue breaths at a rate of 1 breath every 5-6 seconds	Y/N	Consider delegating this to someone else while you continue to provide bag-trach ventilation.
If stable place back on ventilator and monitor as needed	Y/N	
Call 911 if unable to troubleshoot circuit disconnection or if child becomes unstable at any point		



2. Plugged Tracheostomy Tube Leading to Chest Compressions

Scenario:

Sheila is a 4-year-old preschooler and has an agency registered nurse that attends to her medical needs in the classroom. Sheila has had a tracheostomy since 7-months of age.

Sheila recently weaned off her ventilator during the daytime and her trach has an HME (heat moisture exchanger) device while in preschool. She suddenly starts acting like she cannot breathe—turning her head side-to-side, her color begins to deteriorate (pale-bluish), and her agency RN asks the teacher to immediately radio the school RN for assistance.

You arrive to the classroom to see go to Sheila, who is now laying on the floor with her agency RN at her side. The go bag is on the floor and open, along with Shelia's suction machine. How do you proceed?

Anticipated Steps	Performed Correctly	Notes for instructor
Check responsiveness Tap child: Are you ok Briefly consider if you need to call 911 or if you can intervene quickly.	Y/N	Child is responsive but dusky in color. Sats are at 78%.
Check placement of tracheostomy	Y/N	Trach is in place.
Suction Trach	Y/N	It is difficult to pass the suction catheter resistance is felt with thick secretions. Sats decrease to 70%.
Change Trach with obturator	Y/N	Successful trach change with plug at end of trach
Begin providing rescue breaths 1 breath every 5-6 seconds Verbalizes components of manometer	Y/N	As you are providing breath the child becomes unresponsive.
Have someone call 911	Y/N	
Begin CPR Chest Pushes (Compressions) 30:2	Y/N	Make sure rescue breaths are changed from 1 breath every 5-6 seconds to 2 breaths back to back after 30 compressions. Continue CPR until help arrives or child becomes responsive.



3. Decannulation leading to chest compressions

Scenario:

You have a 6-year-old at one of your schools with a tracheostomy tube. The student typically comes to school with his private duty nurse, but she has called in sick for the day and you are responsible for providing care to the student. You are on the playground with the student at recess when he suddenly begins to have a hard time breathing and is beginning to turn pale and slightly cyanotic around the lips. How do you proceed? How would you proceed?

Anticipated Steps	Performed Correctly	Notes for instructor
Check responsiveness of the child. Are you ok? Briefly consider if you need to call 911 or if you can intervene quickly.	Y/N	Child is responsive but is struggling to breathe. Pulse ox reading is 75%.
Check placement of tracheostomy	Y/N	The tracheostomy tube is not in place.
Attempt to reinsert the trach	Y/N	Unable to reinsert the trach. Child is still responsive but dusky and struggling to breathe. Pulse ox reading is now 70%.
Verbalize steps to dealing with a difficult trach change	Y/N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use obturator • Lubricate trach • Position of patient • Use smaller trach
Demonstrates reinsertion of smaller trach	Y/N	Trach is reinserted but child becomes unresponsive.
Have someone call 911	Y/N	
Begin CPR Chest Pushes (compressions) 30:2	Y/N	<p>Make sure rescue breaths are changed from 1 breath every 5-6 seconds to 2 breaths back-to-back after 30 compressions.</p> <p>Continue CPR until help arrives or child becomes responsive.</p>