

Nebulization in the COVID-19 Era

FOR PATIENTS

MYTHS

BUSTED

All nebulizers get contaminated by patient secretions.



Wash hands before using nebulizer. All parts should be cleaned/disinfected per manufacturer recommendations. Contamination can occur due to improper care of nebulizer parts or medication.

If sick people use nebulizers, they can spread germs to others.



The mist that comes out of the nebulizer has not been shown to spread germs. Proper hand washing prior to use of nebulizer equipment and proper cleaning of nebulizer after use is essential. If you are concerned, you can talk to your doctor about using an expiratory filter.

Nebulizers increase infection among health care workers.



Management of patients with COVID-19 often requires use of nebulizers. When proper personal protective equipment (PPE) and procedures are used by health care workers, there is a very low risk of infection. There is no evidence that nebulizers increase risk of infection.

Nebulizers should not be used in people with COVID-19.



At home, if COVID-19 positive, use your nebulizer in a location with good air flow (on a porch or near a window) or away from others. Consider using a filter, if recommended by your doctor. Always clean your nebulizer as recommended by the manufacturer.

Inhalers should be used instead of nebulizers during the pandemic.



Your doctor has determined the best medicine formulation and delivery system for you. You should not change without discussing with your doctor.

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