

# RespED [Covid] Flow Chart

**Triage - Any of....**

- a) **Fever** (>37.8°C or History of)
- b) **New Persistent Cough** (Defined as >1hr or >3 episodes in 24hr)
- c) **New Breathlessness**
- d) **Altered Sense of Smell/Taste**

**In Doubt?**  
Contact: ED senior



**Admission to 'High RISK' ED**

**Senior RAT:**

- a) Is the patient fit for discharge?
- b) Is there a likely alternative diagnosis?
- c) Patient **DOESN'T** require resuscitation?

**Remove from Pathway**

- a) Home
- b) 'Medium RISK' ED
- c) Obvious Admission - Follow speciality pathway



**Covid-19: Respiratory Home Management Criteria**

**Patients with:**

- a) SaO<sub>2</sub> ≥94% on room air, RR < 20bpm and pass 40 step/functional assessment
- b) Chronic respiratory conditions who's SaO<sub>2</sub> is at their baseline on room air
- c) Type II respiratory failure who's SaO<sub>2</sub> is ≥ 88% on room air

**Discharge Home**

**Remember To consider:**

- a) Other health issues
- b) Social factors/support



**Oxygen Therapy** (initially 5l/min can titrate up to 15l/min NRB)

**Targets:**

- a) SaO<sub>2</sub> >94% for Children/Adults (**without** type 2 respiratory failure)
- b) SaO<sub>2</sub> 88-92% for Adults (**with** type 2 respiratory failure)

**Document; Resuscitation status & Escalation plan**

**Admit to COVID-19 Area**

**Observe for deterioration and escalate early for ICU decision.**



**ICU Escalation & Consider CPAP**  
(Patient requires FiO<sub>2</sub> >40% and SaO<sub>2</sub> <94% OR RR ≥20bpm)

**Ideally CPAP started on HDU/ICU:** ED Senior MAY choose to start in ED if Clinical need OR Significant transfer delay ['High RISK' Resus]

**Suitability of CPAP Consider:**

- a) Clinical Frailty Scale (esp. if 5 OR more)
- b) Co-Morbidities (Cardiovascular, COPD, Dementia, Diabetes, Malignancy)
- c) Age (esp. over 80yrs, but poor outcomes seen in the over 65yrs)
- d) Pre-Morbid exercise tolerance

**Admit to ICU COVID-19 Area**

**Observe for deterioration and potential de-escalation**



**Admit to COVID-19 Area**

**Oxygen Therapy** (FiO<sub>2</sub> >50%, Target SaO<sub>2</sub> >92%)

**Awake Proning** - this can significantly improve oxygenation

- a) **Not for ICU** - Clear escalation plan documented
- b) **ICU Plan** - Clear escalation plan (inc. triggers) documented by ICU

**CPAP/NIV usage**

**Considerations:**

- a) NIV is reserved for Type II respiratory failure & chronic respiratory conditions
- b) **AVOID HFNO** senior decision only (CPAP/NIV produce less aerosol) - See SOP
- c) CPR decision & clear escalation plan **MUST** be documented
- d) Patient **MUST** be in 'High RISK' Resus

**NIV**

**Remember:**

- a) Non vented Mask (ours are)
- b) Viral/Bacterial filter at both mask and machine end of tube
- c) Remove any humidifiers
- d) Low threshold for palliation



**CPAP: PEEP 8-12cmH<sub>2</sub>O - review at 2hrs**

Patients requiring higher levels will likely die without mechanical ventilation  
Escalation Plan - MUST be documented



**Continue** - review 6hrs  
if not improving consider palliation

**Escalate OR Palliate**

