

Tracheostomy

EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

A tracheostomy tube is an alternative airway to facilitate breathing. The trach allows air to go in and out of the lungs and for secretions to be removed. A trach that is removed (accidental decannulation) or plugged (mucous blocks the tube) can cause respiratory distress and is potentially life-threatening. The trach needs to be replaced immediately.

WARNING SIGNS

- Accidental decannulation
- Respiratory distress unrelieved from trach suctioning
 - Change in breathing pattern
 - Shortness of breath
 - Increased work of breathing
 - Pulse ox below limit of _____ %
 - Nasal flaring
 - Color change
- Confusion
- Dizziness
- Loss of consciousness

ESSENTIAL STEPS

1. Do not leave the student unattended.
2. Notify the private duty nurse, as applicable
3. Contact the school nurse/health room.
4. Locate emergency supplies or “to-go” bag.
5. Reposition the student and prepare to replace the trach tube.
6. Replace trach. Suction as needed.
7. If the student continues to experience respiratory distress, plug the trach stoma and administer breaths using an Ambu bag with a face mask.
8. Call 911.