

SUGGESTIONS FOR CARE OF A NEBULIZER MACHINE IN THE SCHOOL SETTING

Nebulizer machines and parts require special care and cleaning to reduce the risk of harmful bacterial growth. It is acceptable practice to share a nebulizer compressor machine between two or more children, unless the nebulizer air compressor is labeled “for single patient use”.

If you are sharing a nebulizer compressor machine each child must have his or her own tubing, medication cup and mouthpiece or facemask. In addition, the manufacturer’s instructions regarding use and care of the machine must be followed.

These are general principles for caring for a nebulizer machine. The steps may vary based on the type of nebulizer machine being used. Always follow the manufacturer’s instructions when cleaning a nebulizer machine.

- Disconnect the nebulizer parts (mask or mouthpiece and the medicine cup) from the tubing.
- If condensation is present inside the tubing, run the machine for 10-20 seconds to dry the inside of the tubing.
- Disconnect the tubing from the nebulizer and place it in a sealable plastic bag.
- **The tubing should never be rinsed or put in water.**
- Wash the remaining nebulizer parts with a mild dishwashing soap and warm water.
- Rinse the nebulizer parts under a strong stream of warm running water for at least thirty seconds. If possible use distilled or sterile water as a final rinse.
- Shake off excess any water.
- Allow the nebulizer parts to air dry on a clean cloth or paper towel. The parts may be dried with a lint free towel.
- Once dry, place the remaining nebulizer parts into the sealable plastic bag along with the tubing. Label the bag with the individual student's name.