

Trach Safe: Questions and Answers

What is Trach Safe?

Trach Safe is an initiative started at Seattle Children's Hospital by health professionals and families. We're working with the community to improve the health and safety of every child with a trach.

Why Trach Safe?

Every year, children with trach tubes who are cared for by loving and skilled caregivers experience events that threaten their health and well-being. Some children do not survive. We want to do anything we can to prevent these events.

Questions about Trach Safe:

Leslee Hill, RRT
206-987-2258

Questions about your child's health or their trach:

Ask your child's
healthcare provider

How does this help keep children safe?

Our hope is that by gathering your input, we will gain a better understanding of things that impact the safety of a child with a trach. Our goal is to improve the safety and health of your child and every child with a trach.

What is Seattle Children's doing to improve safety of children with trachs and vents?

Our Trach Safe program focuses on 3 efforts:

- An evaluation and diagram of what's going on with your child's airway done by a skilled lung doctor or head and neck doctor
- Training classes for nurses in the community
- Implementation of the "Trach Safe Check" in clinic

What is the Trach Safe Check?

The Trach Safe Check is a short questionnaire about your child's trach. We hope that the answers gathered will help us find out how to improve the safety of all children at home with trachs.

How often will I fill out the Trach Safe Check?

Your providers should be talking with you about trach safety at each of your clinic visits. We hope that filling out the Trach Safe Check will start the conversation. We're also working on ways to involve your community care team.

What should I do if I have questions about managing airway emergencies at home?

Ask your providers about strategies to keep your child safe at home. We're also sharing an example of the Airway Emergency Plan.

Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask your child's nurse.
- From outside the hospital, call the toll-free Family Interpreting Line 1-866-583-1527. Tell the interpreter the name or extension you need.