

# Ventilator Alarms

Ensure all alarms are set with appropriate parameters each shift!

## INCREASED RR RATE

Patient is tiring on a weaning mode or experiencing pain/anxiety

- ✗ Reassess WOB & provide analgesics/sedation
- ✗ Consult RT/MD & consider adjusting mode/PS

## APNEA

Patient fails to take spontaneous breath within set interval (usually 20 seconds)

- ✗ Reassess for over sedation & decrease PRN
- ✗ Assess for tiring & consult RT/MD to adjust to full ventilation PRN

## LOW EXHALED TV/MV

Patient tiring on weaning mode  
ETT cuff or ventilator circuit leak  
Pressure limit reached in PC mode

- ✗ Auscultate trachea for cuff leak, check pilot balloon, & add air PRN
- ✗ Check circuit for leaks & tighten all connections
- ✗ Consult RT/MD to increase RR in PC mode if MV is low

## HIGH PRESSURE

Coughing, bronchospasms, secretions, pneumothroax  
Biting on or kinking of the ETT  
Excess water in ETT/circuit

- ✗ Suction patient & remove excess water from tubes
- ✗ Auscultate lungs & provide bronchodilators/order CXR PRN
- ✗ Insert bite block & increase sedation PRN then reassess ETT placement

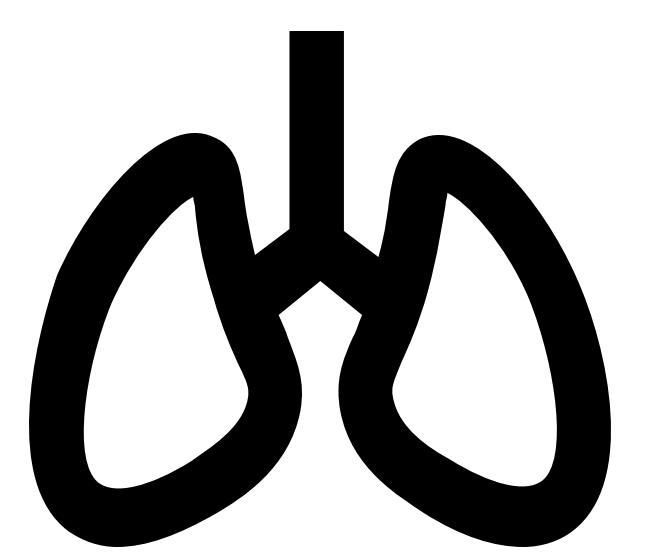
## LOW PRESSURE

Cuff or circuit leak

- ✗ Auscultate trachea for cuff leak, check pilot balloon, & add air PRN
- ✗ Check circuit for leaks & tighten all connections

## When in Doubt:

MANUALLY VENTILATE with a BVM



Never be afraid to  
CALL FOR HELP!

COVID-19  
Specific:

1. Clamp the ETT
2. Disconnect from ventilator & attach BVM
3. Unclamp ETT & MANUALLY VENTILATE