

Why is it important to write down your wishes for medical treatment during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic?

This is an unusual time, with large numbers of people getting sick with COVID-19. This virus can cause:



Fever



Severe cough



Trouble breathing



Life support machines, such as ventilators, move air in and out of your lungs if you can't breathe on your own.

Some people get so sick that they need life support machines, but because of the current pandemic, there may not be enough life support machines for everyone who needs one.

At this point, it is not clear how it will be decided who will get life support machines if there is a shortage. It is likely that a team of doctors and nurses will review the cases of patients who need life support machines and decide which patients have the best chance of recovery. The team will likely have data such as the age and medical history of each patient in need. They should not have any information about the patient's race, ethnicity, religion, health insurance, or other unrelated information.

Since you may not have a choice later on, now is the time to think about what kind of treatment you would want if you became very sick with COVID-19. The document below shows your wishes in case you can no longer speak for yourself. That way, your health care team and your loved ones know about your decisions.

Which other documents should you consider?

The document on the next page is best used as an addendum (an addition) to:



DNR (do not resuscitate order): This document tells hospital staff that you do not want them to use CPR to try to restart your heart if it stops beating.



Living will: A living will shows your decisions about different medical treatments that would happen if you became very ill, such as whether you want artificial nutrition (get food and water through a feeding tube).



Health care proxy (also called durable power of attorney for health care): A health care proxy lets you name another person to make health care decisions for you when you can't. This person is also called a **health care surrogate**. It can be a family member, close friend, or another trusted person. Please discuss your wishes with your health care surrogate and give them a copy of the form below and other health care documents.

My wishes regarding life support during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic

This document shows my wishes for the treatment I want to receive if I become sick with COVID-19.

Check **Yes** or **No** for each statement below.

Yes **No**

- Given the CDC guidelines and hospital policies, and in compliance with Infectious Disease Control standards, I would like to have limited family members visit if possible.
- If I should become sick enough to need a life support machine, I want to be put on a life support machine, if one is available. I understand that being on a life support machine means that I would be sedated (given medicines that make me sleepy) and unable to speak with my family and friends during the time I am on the machine.
- If I should become sick enough to need a life support machine, I want to be put on a life support machine, if one is available. However, I would want my health care team to first consider others who may be more likely to survive. I understand this would mean I am more likely to die.
- I do not want to be put on a life support machine, even if one is available. I understand this would mean I am more likely to die.

Check **Yes** or **No** for each statement below, and add any other information on the lines provided.

Yes **No**

- I am sure that my answers above reflect what I want. _____ (initial)
- I need to ask questions and talk to a doctor and my loved ones before I can be sure that my answers above reflect what I want. _____ (initial)
- I have a DNR (do not resuscitate order). It can be found here:

- I have a living will. It can be found here: _____
- I have a Health Care Surrogate (HCS).
Name: _____ Phone number: _____
Alternate HCS: _____ Phone number: _____



To be in effect until December 31, 2020 or a date declared by the World Health Organization (WHO) as the end of the COVID-19 pandemic (whichever happens sooner).

Patient signature

Printed name

Date

Witness signature (if you are not in isolation)

Printed name

Date