

Getting Around

Home portable ventilators have been designed for travel. They are reasonably compact, light, quiet and robust. They have batteries and are licensed for air/road travel. They will come with bags to protect them. Children with ventilators still need appropriate restraints (in a car/plane) while travelling. Some children may have specialised seating needs, and your health team will help you with that.

Travelling with a child who is dependent on a ventilator does take more planning and can seem daunting at first, but it is possible! Your health team is committed to helping you so that you and your child can get out and experience life.

What to bring?

This will depend on your child's needs. Your health team will advise you.

For a tracheostomy-ventilated child this may include:

- Tracheostomy box
- Portable ventilator, external batteries + car adaptor
- Oximeter
- Powered suction
- Back-up ventilator (if highly dependent/travelling far) – your health team will advise on this
- Appropriate consumables/spares
- Emergency equipment (oxygen, manual suction, manual ventilation bag, etc)
- Mobile phone and torch (if potentially travelling after dark)
- If you are travelling far or going overseas, make sure you bring appropriate letters from your health team, enough consumables, care guides and manuals – page 21 (Astral) of the user guides.
- Speak with your health team well ahead of any planned travel.

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How do I carry it all?

- This will depend on your child, their needs and what you are doing. Use the right bags to carry and protect the equipment. They may be attached to pushchairs, etc. Never carry humidifiers with water in the chamber. Your health team will advise you on this.
- Check your equipment isn't too heavy for your buggy/chair and that it doesn't over balance.
- While travelling in a car, make sure you secure the equipment (like the ventilator) appropriately so that it doesn't go flying if you stop suddenly. Velcro or straps may be needed.
- While travelling, you still need to ensure the ventilator is placed appropriately, including:
 - Not in direct sunlight
 - Away from dust/harmful fumes
 - The entire circuit is below the child's head height
 - Make sure you can access it, see the screen and hear alarms (increase volume if needed so you can hear it easily).

