



Coalition for Baccalaureate and Graduate
Respiratory Therapy Education

Press Release

Respiratory therapists are specialized healthcare practitioners with training and expertise in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of cardiopulmonary diseases, including mechanical ventilation in emergency, critical care, and long-term care settings. Respiratory therapists are licensed, and specialty board credentialed to implement and manage mechanical ventilation; in this process, they work together with critical care physicians and nurses to develop treatment strategies.

Respiratory therapists understand how to manage airways, administer specialty gases, manage mechanical ventilation, and deliver pharmacologic agents. Their education and clinical experience include assessment of patients' oxygenation, ventilatory and hemodynamic status as well as recommending care based on the results of laboratory tests and medical imaging. Respiratory therapists are skilled at assessment, treatment and care of patients with acute respiratory failure to include support of oxygenation and ventilation, and care of patients with pneumonia, sepsis and adult respiratory distress syndrome. The respiratory therapist is also skilled at anticipating other needs of critically ill patients to include nutritional support, prevention of ventilator associated pneumonia, hemodynamic support and end-of-life care.

If you are interested in setting up an interview with a respiratory therapist to discuss mechanical ventilation of the COVID-19 patient, please contact: Dr. Christy Kane at ckane@bellarmine.edu or Dr. Doug Gardenhire at dgardenhire@qsu.edu.

To find a baccalaureate or graduate respiratory therapy program, please use the links below.

[ASRT to BSRT & MSRC Degree Advancement Programs](#)

[BSRT and MSRT Entry Programs](#)

[Graduate Respiratory Therapist Programs](#)

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