

A Member of Trinity Health

COPD Zones



Every Day

- Take daily medicines/inhalers.
- Use oxygen as ordered.
- Avoid cigarette smoke and other inhaled irritants at all times.
- Continue regular exercise. Eat a healthy diet. Drink plenty of fluids.
- Get plenty of rest. Reduce stress.

Green Zone

ALL CLEAR! This zone is your goal. Your symptoms are under control.

- Usual activity and exercise level
- Usual amounts of coughing/phlegm/mucus
- Sleep well at night
- Appetite is good

Yellow Zone

CAUTION! This zone is a warning!

Call your home care nurse at ______, or Call your doctor at

- More breathless than usual
- More coughing than usual
- Increased or thicker phlegm/mucus or a change in color of phlegm/mucus
- Feel like you have a "chest cold"
- Yellow Using your quick relief inhaler/nebulizer more often
 - Use oxygen if ordered by your doctor:
 - Less energy for daily activities
 - Trouble walking or weakness
 - Not able to do any activity because of breathing
 - Rescue medicine is not helping your breathing
 - You have to increase the number of pillows needed to sleep or need to sleep in a chair
 - Temperature is 101°F (38.3°C) or greater

Red Zone

EMERGENCY Zone!! Call 911 or have someone take you to the Emergency Room!

- Severe shortness of breath/wheezing/chest tightness at rest or after taking medications/treatments
- Fever or shaking chills
- Increased confusion or very drowsy
- Headaches with irritability
- Chest pain
- Coughing up blood
- Your lips or fingernails are blue