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High-flow nasal oxygen: a safe, efficient treatment for COVID-19 patients not in an ICU

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SARS-CoV-2 infected patients with nonhypercapnic acute hypoxaemic respiratory failure can benefit from high-flow nasal oxygen outside an ICU. The technique appears to be safe for healthcare workers and could well liberate critical ICU resources. <https://bit.ly/2Xq80iu>

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To the Editor:

The new severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), causing coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), now recognised by the World Health Organization as a pandemic, emerged in late 2019 in China [1]. Patients infected with SARS-CoV-2 can develop severe pneumonia and respiratory failure, which often require treatment in intensive care units (ICU) in Western European countries [2]. Oxygen therapy and supportive care are still the main forms of therapy for SARS-CoV-2 pneumonia until suitable anti-infective therapies become available.