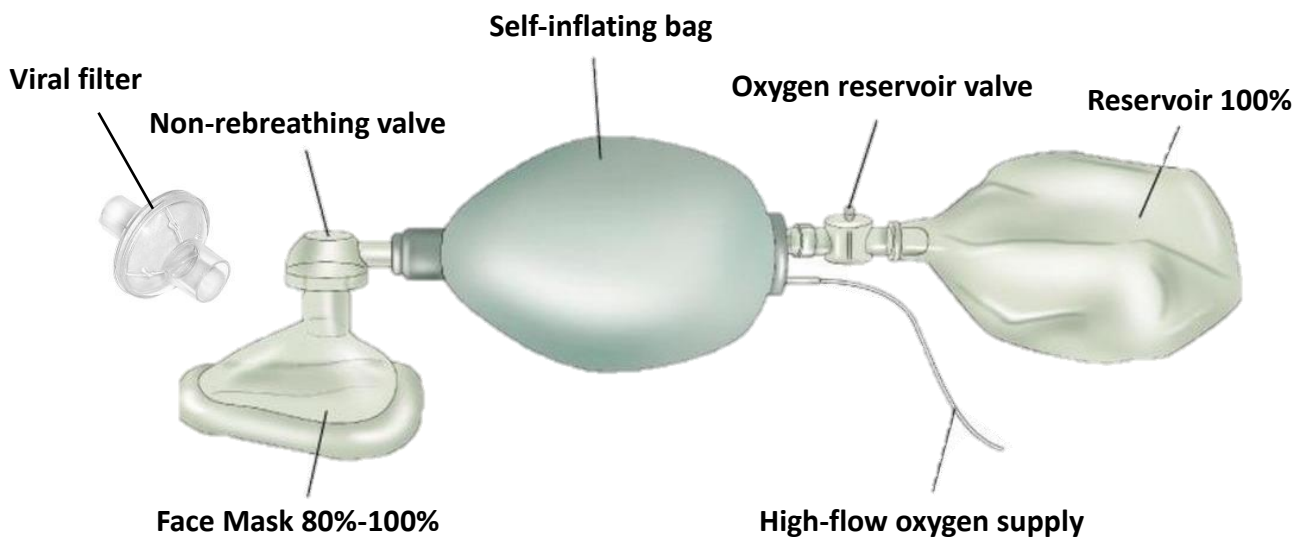




Bag valve masks, or BVMs, are manual ventilators used to deliver ventilations for victims that are breathing ineffectively. The difference between a BVM and a pocket mask used for CPR is that a BVM involves compressing a self-inflating bag to deliver oxygen rather than using rescue breaths to do so.

A bag valve mask is most effective when connected to an oxygen unit with a flow of 15 lpm and operated by two trained individuals. However, a BVM can still be used (although less effectively) without oxygen and operated by only one person with an oropharyngeal airway (OPA).



### WHEN TO USE BAG VALVE MASKS

The BVM is part of the critical intervention of the Primary Assessment related to breathing and comes after a scene assessment to ensure no danger to the rescuer.

Primary assessment:

- Level of consciousness (LOC)
- EMS & AED
- Airway
- Breathing
- Circulation
- **Critical interventions**
- Treat for shock



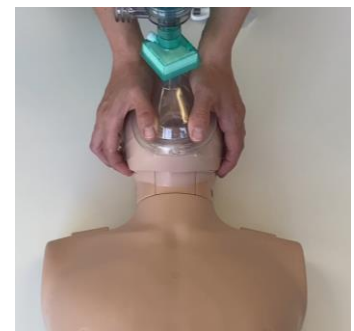
## HOW TO USE BAG VALVE MASKS

- Position the rescuer responsible for opening the airway at the head
- BVM mask positioned like a pocket mask covering the victim's mouth and nose. When using an adult BVM on an infant, invert the mask so that the top of the mask is at the infant's chin
- Use a CE clamp or the Thenar Eminence (TE) technique to seal the mask over the victim's mouth and nose
- Deliver ventilations over 1 second
- Force should be equivalent to a regular breath
- The volume should only be enough to make the chest rise
- If air does not go in, troubleshoot beginning with the tongue
- Use with supplemental oxygen when available



## CONSIDERATIONS WHEN USING A BAG VALVE MASK

- Ensure that the BVM has a viral filter attached and that a continuous seal of the mask is maintained as a COVID-19 consideration.
- As with any tool, it is important to avoid tunnel visioning on the BVM and forgetting to care for the victim. When a BVM is not available, provide ventilations using a pocket mask.
- Calling EMS, compressions and the AED are the priorities. The BVM can be set up and connected to oxygen during an analyze phase to avoid delaying compression.
- Avoid over-inflating the lungs by paying attention to the chest rising and falling. Over-inflation can lead to gastric distension resulting in regurgitation.



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