



SAFE AIRWAY SOCIETY

[ADAPTED] COVID-19 AIRWAY MANAGEMENT

1. Intensive training
2. Early intervention

3. Meticulous planning
4. Vigilant infection control

5. Efficient airway management
6. Clear communication

USE A 'BUDDY CHECK' FOR CORRECT PPE FITTING

Planning

Intervene early - aim to avoid emergency intubation.
Negative Pressure room or Normal pressure with strict door policy.
Senior clinician involvement. Is Anaesthetist needed?
Early airway assessment documented by senior clinician.

Prepare

Assemble 5-6 person Airway Team (see below).
Use COVID-19 Intubation Tray (see below).
Ensure Viral Filter and ETCO₂ in ventilation circuit.
Share Airway Strategy. Use a dedicated COVID intubation checklist.

PPE

Hand Hygiene (HH).
Donning: HH > Gown > Mask > Eye-protection > Hat > HH > Gloves.
Spotter to perform "Buddy Check" to ensure correct PPE fit.
Airway operator to consider double gloves.

Pre-Ox

45 degree head up position.
Pre-oxygenate with Non-Rebreather Mask for full 5 minutes.
Avoid Apnoeic Oxygenation techniques due to aerosolization risk.

Perform

Modified RSI technique (1.5mg/kg IBW Roc OR 1.5mg/kg TBW Sux).
No ventilation prior to intubation
Wait 60 seconds for paralysis to take effect - avoid triggering cough.
Remove Non-Rebreather Mask and proceed with intubation

Post-ETT

Inflate cuff BEFORE initiating ventilation and monitor cuff pressures to minimise leak.
Remove outer gloves (if on), dispose of airway equipment in sealed bag.
Doffing: Gloves > Gown > HH > Hat > Eye Protection > Mask > HH. Use a Spotter.
Debrief and share lessons.

Awake Intubation

Risk of aerosolization. Involve Senior Anaesthetist if this airway technique is indicated.

Connection / Disconnection

Apply the viral filter directly to the ETT.
Only disconnect the circuit on the ventilator side of the viral filter.

CICO Rescue

Scalpel-bougie technique to avoid aerosolization.

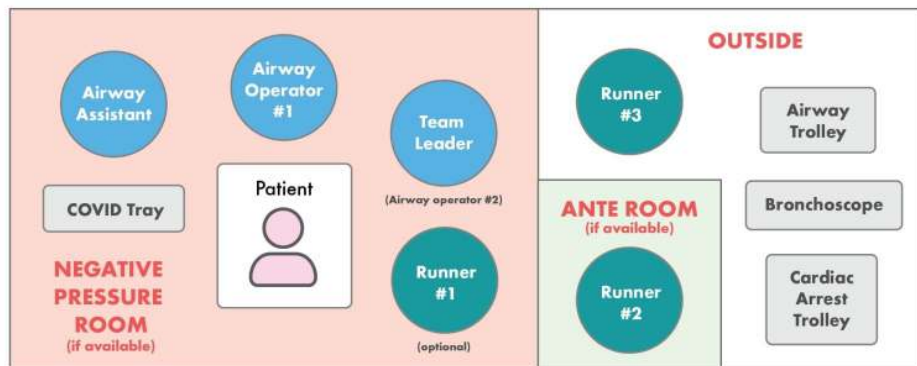




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Team Members



COVID Intubation Tray

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Macintosh direct laryngoscope | <input type="checkbox"/> Bougie / Stylet | <input type="checkbox"/> ETCO2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SGA (2nd generation) | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 mL syringe | <input type="checkbox"/> NG tube (large bore) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ETT (appropriate size range) | <input type="checkbox"/> Tube tie | <input type="checkbox"/> OPA + NPA |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Lubricant sachet | <input type="checkbox"/> Scalpel + bougie CICO kit |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Viral filter | <input type="checkbox"/> In-line suction |

Circuit Setup

