# COVID-19 Airway Management

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<th>1. Intensive training</th>
<th>3. Meticulous planning</th>
<th>5. Efficient airway management</th>
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## 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 reverse).
- Use COVID-19 Intubation Tray (see reverse).
- 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 Face Mask using 2 hands for full 5 minutes.
- Ensure a square ETCO2 waveform, to be confident of no leaks.
- Avoid Apnoeic Oxygenation techniques due to aerosolization risk.

## Perform
- Use VL; use the screen (indirect view) to maximise operator distance from airway.
- Modified RSI technique (1.5mg/kg IBW Roc OR 1.5mg/kg TBW Sux).
- No ventilation prior to intubation unless for rescue oxygenation.
- Wait 60 seconds for paralysis to take effect - avoid triggering cough.

## 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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**USE A 'BUDDY CHECK' FOR CORRECT PPE FITTING**

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**Collaboration between Safe Airway Society + RNS ASCAR**

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**COVID-19 AIRWAY MANAGEMENT**

**Team Members**

- **Airway Assistant**
- **Airway Operator #1**
- **Team Leader**
- **COVID Tray**
- **Patient**
- **Runner #1**
- **Runner #2**
- **Runner #3**

**OUTSIDE**

- **Airway Trolley**
- **Bronchoscope**
- **Cardiac Arrest Trolley**

**ANTE ROOM**

(if available)

**COVID Intubation Tray**

- Macintosh VL blade
- Hyperangulated VL blade (if available)
- Macintosh direct laryngoscope
- SGA (2nd generation)
- ETT (appropriate size range)
- Bougie / Stylet
- 10 mL syringe
- Tube tie
- Lubricant sachet
- Viral filter
- ETCO2
- NG tube (large bore)
- OPA + NPA
- Scalpel + bougie CICO kit
- In-line suction

**Circuit Setup**

- Patient
- ETT / Facemask
- Viral Filter
- ETCO2
- Ventilator / BVM

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