

PRINCIPLES* OF AIRWAY MANAGEMENT IN CORONAVIRUS COVID-19

FOR SUSPECTED/REPORTABLE** OR CONFIRMED CASES OF COVID-19



BEFORE

STAFF PROTECTION

- Hand Hygiene
- Full Personal Protective Equipment***
- Minimize Personnel During Aerosol Generating Procedures****
- Airborne Infection Isolation Room (if available)

PREPARATION

- Early Preparation of Drugs and Equipment
- Formulate plan Early
- Meticulous Airway Assessment
- Connect Viral/Bacterial Filter to Circuits and Manual Ventilator
- Use Closed Suctioning System
- Use Video Laryngoscopy (Disposable if available)

DURING

TEAM DYNAMICS

- Clear Delineation of Roles
- Clear Communication of Airway Plan
- Closed-loop Communication Throughout
- Cross-monitoring by All Team Members for Potential Contamination

TECHNICAL ASPECTS

- Airway Management by Most Experienced Practitioner
- Lowest Gas Flows Possible to Maintain Oxygenation
- Tight Fitting Mask with Two Hand Grip to Minimise Leak
- Rapid Sequence Induction and Avoid Bag-Mask Ventilation When Possible
- Ensure Paralysis to Avoid Coughing
- Positive Pressure Ventilation Only After Cuff Inflated

AFTER

- Avoid Unnecessary Circuit Disconnection
- If Disconnection Needed, Wear PPE and Standby Ventilator +/- Clamp Tube
- Strict Adherence to Proper Degowning Steps
- Hand Hygiene
- Team Debriefing

*Principles of Airway Management of COVID-19 may apply to Operating Theatre, Intensive Care, Emergency Department and Ward Settings. Similar principles apply to extubation of COVID-19 patients.

**There are regional and institutional variations on definition of a suspected/reportable case. Please refer to your own institutional practice.

***Personal Protective Equipment according to your own institutional recommendation, may include: Particulate Respirator, Cap, Eye Protection, Long-sleeved Waterproof Gown, Gloves

****Aerosol Generating Procedures: Tracheal Intubation, Non-invasive Ventilation, Tracheostomy, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation, Manual Ventilation before Intubation, Bronchoscopy, Open Suctioning of Respiratory Tract

References:

1. World Health Organization. Infection prevention and control during health care when novel coronavirus (nCoV) infection is suspected Interim guidance. January 2020.
2. Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Confirmed 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) or Persons Under Investigation for 2019-nCoV in Healthcare Settings. February 2020.

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