Airway Management: Respiratory Precautions
(Including CoVID-19)

INTUBATION and AIRWAY MANAGEMENT are "aerosol generating" procedures, with a higher risk of respiratory pathogen transmission.1*

PRIOR to Airway Management

- Staff utilise masks of ≥N95, P2 (duck-bill) protection
- Double glove technique $ immediately remove and dispose of outer gloves after airway manipulation.
- Patient should wear a mask until airway management commences
- Minimise staff present until airway management completed
- AVOID awake fiberoptic procedures, CPAP, or High-Flow nasal oxygenation
- Use full personal protective mask, visor, gloves, equipment: impermeable gown
- Preoxygenate with 100% FiO2
- DESIGNATE a room or theater, with signs posted to minimise staff exposure
- Consider videolaryngoscopy for best 1st attempt at intubation
- AVOID open ventilation circuits, ensure use of expiratory filters

DURING Airway Management

- Use most experienced technician for best 1st attempt at intubation
- Preference Rapid Sequence Induction to avoid mask ventilation
- 2-hand mask ventilation to reduce particulate spread
- Positive-pressure ventilation ONLY after airway cuff has been inflated

AFTER Airway Management

- Bag and seal ALL airway equipment IMMEDIATELY after use, for decontamination or disposal
- Perform hand hygiene after removing PPE #
- Leave appropriate time afterwards for clearance of airborne infectious contamination @
- Avoid circuit disconnections which may increase droplet spread
- DISPOSE of all PPE after completion of airway management and leaving patient care
- AVOID touching hair or face until hand hygiene is completed ^
- EXTUBATION requires the same procedures and precautions as INTUBATION

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* These include: intubation, extubation, bronchoscopy, airway suction, high frequency oscillatory ventilation, tracheostomy, chest physiotherapy, nebulizer treatment, and should be performed in suspected COVID-19 cases ONLY when benefits outweigh the risks.
$ Double gloves enable one to shed outer gloves after intubation and minimize subsequent environmental contamination.
# Hand hygiene for COVID-19 can be performed using alcohol-based hand rubs or soap and water. Wash hands with soap and water if soiled.
@ The length of time depends on the number of air exchanges per hour in the specific room or space: https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/environmental/appendix/air.html#tableb1


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