

# Intubation of Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19 Patients

\*Adapted from intensiveblog.com with appreciation

## Planning

### Timing

- Consider intubation early
- Minimise staff exposure
- Maximise preparation

**Remember**  
PAPR will take minimum 15 minutes to apply

### Location

Intubation should occur in a **negative pressure room**

If this is not available, use a neutral pressure room with the door closed.

### Patient Assessment

- Assess early, senior staff

If difficult airway is predicted  
contact Anesthesia for backup

**Pre-calculate:** ETT tube depth via online calc (Goal no adjust)

### Pre-oxygenate 3-5 minutes:

- 100% NRB (1<sup>st</sup> line\*)
  - \*If already escalated beyond NRB continue current modality*
- Severe/Refractory Hypoxemia:
- Passive BVM (NO squeeze) tight seal + Viral Filter + PEEP valve + 25L

### Plan A - Primary Plan

*Intubation should be done by Attending/Experienced provider only*

**Use of Video Laryngoscopy (VL) is encouraged as 1<sup>st</sup> line for intubation**

### Plan B/C - Rescue Oxygenation

#### Supraglottic Airway Device (SAD)

- Preferred technique
- 2<sup>nd</sup> gen, non-inflating, e.g. I-gel BVM, if supraglottic not successful
- Tight seal! 2 person technique
- Adjuncts (Oral +/- Nasal airway)

### Plan D - Front of Neck airway

**Scalpel-finger-bougie cricothyroidotomy** technique

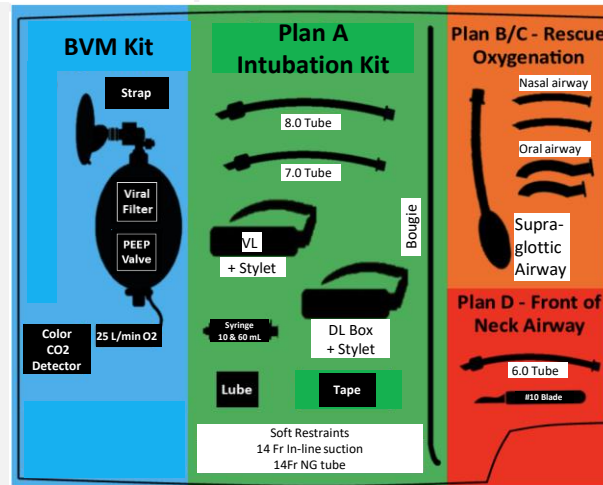
Required equipment for emergent FONA should be prepared and quickly available

## Equipment

### PPE

(subject to change)  
**PAPR + Contact**  
Impervious Gown  
Non-sterile Gloves (tucked into gown or double glove)

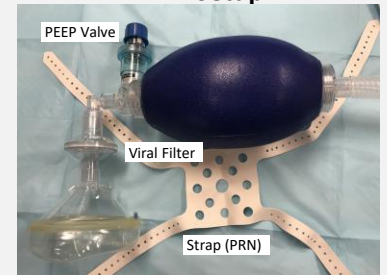
**PPE Monitor**  
Must supervise the application and removal of PPE



### Airway Supplies

- Use Room-Entry Checklist to prepare equipment outside room
- Open BVM kit and Airway A Kit
- Kits B/C & D go into room (if unopened, can be wiped and reused)

### BVM Setup



## Personnel

### Intubation Team Roles

3 personnel in room recommended (balances safe intubation & staff exposure)

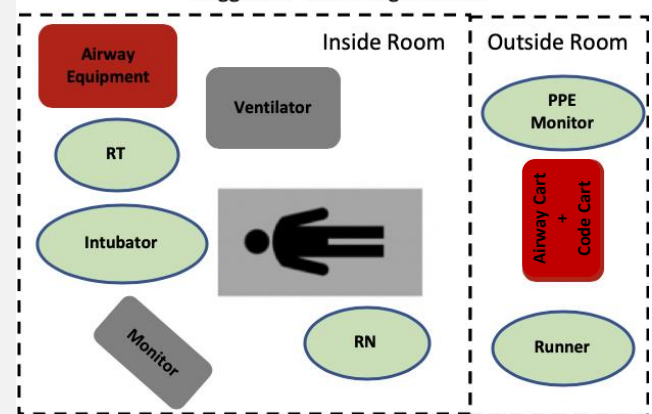
#### In-Room Roles

- Provider = Team Leader / Intubator
  - Writes Plan on Board
- RT = Airway Assistant
- RN = Drugs / Monitor

#### Out of Room Roles

- Runner
  - Available to hand things into room
  - Ready to don PPE if needed
- PPE Monitor

### Suggested Room Organization



## Drugs

### Paralytic

- Rocuronium 1.2 mg/kg (IBW)
  - 1.6 mg/kg for ↓ BP

### Induction (reduce dose for ↓ BP)

- Ketamine 2mg/kg (IBW)
- Propofol 1 mg/kg (TBW)
- Midazolam 0.1-0.3 mg/kg (TBW)
- Etomidate 0.3 mg/kg (TBW)

## Induction

### Rapid Sequence Intubation

- Allow 1 minute for adequate paralysis, avoid coughing
- Avoid BVM ventilation during apneic period unless life-threatening refractory hypoxemia
- Do not routinely use cricoid pressure
- Wait until cuff is up post intubation to ventilate
- Higher risk of critical desaturation and perintubation arrest

## Post

### General Notes

- Place OG tube, A-line, CVC at same time to conserve time, room re-entry and PPE
- Max 1 chest x-ray after all procedures
- Use closed suctioning system
- Avoid circuit disconnections
- Clamp ETT for planned disconnections

**Doff with monitor**  
**Complete a Team Debrief**

# COVID-19 Intubation Pre-entry Checklist

To bring INSIDE room (if not already present):

## **Proceduralist Prepares**

- ☐ Video laryngoscope, function checked
- ☐ Glide stylet if using Glide scope/hyperangulated blade (traditional stylet is in Bag A)
- ☐ Central Line Kit
- ☐ Arterial Line Kit

## **RN Prepares**

- ☐ IV access
- ☐ RSI Meds drawn up and labeled
- ☐ Post-intubation sedation
- ☐ Pressors – norepi drip or phenylephrine syringe
- ☐ IVFs

## **RT Prepares**

- ☐ Vent with appropriate viral filter
- ☐ Oral suction setup
- ☐ **BVM KIT**
  - Ambu bag and mask
  - Mask harness (strap)
  - Viral Filter
  - PEEP valve
  - Colorimetric end-tidal CO2 detector
- ☐ **AIRWAY A INTUBATION KIT**
  - ET Tube (7.0 and 8.0)
  - Adult Direct Laryngoscopy box (don't open unless needed)
  - 14 Fr Intubating Stylet
  - Bougie
  - 10 cc syringe
  - 60 cc Syringe
  - Lube
  - Soft Restraints
  - Tape
  - 14 Fr NG tube
  - 14 Fr in line suction
  - 4x4 Sterile gauze pack
- ☐ **AIRWAY B/C INTUBATION KIT**
  - iGel size 4
  - OPA #8, & #9
  - NPA #22, & #24
  - Lube
- ☐ **AIRWAY D INTUBATION KIT**
  - ET tube 6.0
  - #10 Scalpel
  - Iodine swab

Keep OUTSIDE room:

- ☐ Airway cart (never bring in room)
- ☐ Code cart