

Safe Airway Management for COVID-19 Positive Patients

RISKS TO CARE PROVIDERS



MITIGATION STRATEGIES

Any hospital staff managing a COVID-19 positive patient's airway are at risk for aerosol-based transmission

- POSITIVE PRESSURE OR NON-INVASIVE VENTILATION IF POSSIBLE
- HIGH FLOW NASAL OXYGEN AND OPEN AIRWAY SUCTION
- INADEQUATE FACE-MASK SEAL DURING PRE-OXYGENATION

Hospital staff should anticipate faster desaturation during intubation

- PRIORITIZE INTUBATION WITH CUFFED ENDOTRACHEAL TUBE
- USE STANDARD BVM, VIRAL FILTER, AND PEEP VALVE
- USE 2-HAND VICE (V-E) GRIP WITH VIRAL FILTER BETWEEN MASK AND BVM BAG



ADOPT GENERAL AIRWAY SAFETY GUIDELINES:

SAFE adopt guidelines that mitigate unnecessary risk for staff and patients
SIMPLE adopt straightforward solutions that can be executed efficiently
FAMILIAR rely on existing techniques already familiar to clinicians
RELIABLE choose options known to be successful



Information from: Morgenstern, J. (March 19, 2020). "COVID airway management: SAS consensus statement". First10EM. https://first10em.com/covid-airway-management-sas-consensus-statement/ Prepared by Sue Anne Bell, PhD, FNP-BC, NHDP-BC