COVID-19 Guidelines

Intraoperative Recommendations when operating on suspected COVID infected patients

March 2020
Part 1 - Recommendations

General principles
➢ Elective surgery should be postponed indefinitely.
➢ Life and limb threatening surgery should be performed only where outcomes are dependent on timely interventions.
➢ Patients who have been triaged as unsuitable for ventilation should not normally have surgical procedure performed.

PPE
➢ All staff should be trained in the use of PPE.
➢ *PPE should be applied and removed using a buddy system and a checklist.

* https://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/ppe/ppe-sequence.pdf

Operating theatre
➢ A dedicated operating theatre should be assigned for treating COVID19 + patients.
➢ The number of staff in the operating theatre should be minimised.
➢ Procedures should be performed by senior and experienced staff to minimise procedure time.
### Part 2 - Recommendations

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<td><strong>Staff</strong>&lt;br&gt;Anaesthetist, Surgeon, Circulating Nurse</td>
<td><strong>Staff</strong>&lt;br&gt;Anaesthetic medical &amp; nursing staff only</td>
<td><strong>Staff</strong>&lt;br&gt;Most Senior Surgical Staff Available</td>
<td><strong>Staff</strong>&lt;br&gt;Anaesthetic, Surgical and Nursing Staff</td>
<td><strong>All Staff</strong></td>
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</table>

- Site marking, consent and appropriately informing family members should be completed as usual.
- Sign in at reception should be modified to ensure minimal unnecessary staff exposure.
- Hospitals departments should agree this locally and advise staff.
- Suspending this process allows for retention of PPE equipment and less staff risk.

Managing COVID-19 in surgical systems - [https://journals.lww.com/annalsofsurgery/Documents](https://journals.lww.com/annalsofsurgery/Documents)

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### Intubation

- This is considered an Aerosol Generating Procedure (AGP) [www.hspc.ie](http://www.hspc.ie).
- Requires standard contact and Airborne procedure protocols.
- Surgeons should not be in the operating theatre for intubation unless concurrent management of bleeding etc. requires their presence.
- Under no circumstances should staff enter the operating room without properly applied PPE

**Consensus statement: Safe Airway Society principles of airway management and tracheal intubation specific to the COVID-19 adult patient group.** [Medical Journal of Australia. Published online March 16th 2020.](https://journals.lww.com/annalsofsurgery/Documents)

### Scrubbing

- Work in teams of two (buddy) to ensure correct application of equipment.

  **Equipment advice:**
  - **Masks:** FFP3 or Higher. (FFP3 Mask should fit face securely and if not surgeon should be fitted for an N95 or PAPR).
  - **Eye Wear:** Full Coverage Eye Protection.
  - **Footwear:** Full Coverage Eye Protection.
  - **Footwear:** Though not part of COVID-19 PPE, consider the use of shoe covers as with any operation.
  - **Gloves:** Double Glove. Alcohol-based hand prep of PPE gloves may be appropriate.
  - **Gown:** Waterproof Gown. If not available Waterproof apron underneath standard gown.

**Michigan Surgery Recommendations updated March 20th 2020**

### Intra Op

- All surgery should be performed in a quick and efficient manner, the following principles apply to all surgeries but particularly laparoscopic:
  - Strict Haemostasis
  - Electrocautery at low settings
  - Liberal use of suction
  - Reduce Trendelenburg
  - Low pneumoperitoneum pressure levels; consider open surgery as an alternative
  - Avoid long dissection in one area
  - Avoid Harmonic or Ultrasound Dissection if possible

**Minimally invasive surgery and the novel coronavirus outbreak: lessons learned in China and Italy.** [https://journals.lww.com/annalsofsurgery/Documents](https://journals.lww.com/annalsofsurgery/Documents)

### Post Op

- All PPE should be removed inside the operating room.
- Exposed skin, outside of gown, mask, goggles, gloves are presumed to be infected and should not be touched directly.
- Follow PPE removal and disposal guidelines on CDC website.
- Order is Important: First gloves then gown, then wash or alcohol rub hands, then eyewear and mask, then wash or alcohol.

[https://www.cdc.gov/haipdfs/ppe/ ppe-sequence.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/haipdfs/ppe/ppe-sequence.pdf)