

NWC EMSS ETI Adaptations for Suspected COVID-19 patients

Possible indications for ETI (advanced airway) in Covid-19 patients

- SpO₂ remains less than 90% on FiO₂ of 60% or greater
- Septic shock
- Hypercapnia with ETCO₂ >45 **OR** acidosis (ETCO₂ <31), ventilatory failure and high work of breathing
- Altered mental status due to ventilatory/respiratory failure

Identify Roles and Responsibilities

- **Optimize 1st attempt success:** Use best/most qualified intubator with at least 1 (preferably 2) assistants
 - **Assistant(s)** must function within scope of practice: Help with PreOx; IV/IO, drugs; monitoring ECG/VS; opening needed supplies. **Prepare and practice for worst case scenario: 1 Paramedic and 1 EMT**
 - **PPE Intubator:** Isolation gown (or droplet/splash resistant equivalent), double glove¹; N95 mask (check seal), goggles that surround eyes with facial contact or full face shield; hair cover (if available). Booties are a big doffing risk, so wear shoes you can disinfect.
¹Can strip off contaminated gloves and clean gloves with sanitizer between activities on same pt
 - **PPE Assistants:** Aerosolization procedure (N95 mask)
1. **IMC:** SpO₂, NC ETCO₂: evaluate before and after airway intervention; confirm patent IV/IO; monitor ECG
Anecdotal: Oximetry looks terrible before pts appear dyspneic. Monitor carefully!
 2. **Prepare patient:** Optimize position; If SBP > 100: Elevate head of stretcher 15° - 30°
Gains alveolar recruitment while reducing risk of aspiration
 3. **Preoxygenate 3 minutes:**
 - **Start pre-ox early** so ETI is done under controlled circumstance rather than a crisis
 - **Option 1:** Adequate rate/depth/effort: O₂ 15 L/ETCO₂ NC; NRM mask (no O₂) over NC to capture droplets.
 - **Option 2** – Inadequate rate/depth/effort/apneic/ventilatory failure/shock/airway impaired:
Manual airway maneuver; OPA/NPA; O₂ 15 L/ETCO₂ NC with BVM mask held over NC to face with 2 person technique to minimize air leaks
NEW needed equipment: High-Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) **viral filter** between mask and bag; 10 BPM
 4. **Prepare equipment and rescuers**
 - Create **airway plan for all ill pts with severe dyspnea**. What are you prepared to do to secure this airway?
 - **Stage equipment kits but do not open until needed² - attempt in this order unless contraindicated**
 - Airway Option 1 – Standard ETI supplies; suction
 - Airway Option 2 – Alternate airways; suction available to assistant; ready to go, not opened.
 - Airway Option 3 – Circ kit; suction available, not opened. Use "**Scalpel Finger Bougie**" technique
 - ²**Create airway kit supplies and store in Ziplock bags;** do same for septic shock drug, NS & IV tubing
Minimize opening stock to limited # of items to avoid contamination from contact or aerosolization
Intubator: Do not reach into bags or drawers after starting procedure; common source of cross contamination
Assistant can reach into drug/airway bag prn and pass to intubator without contaminating other supplies.
 5. **Medications**
 - **Sedation – KETAMINE IVP** - Use **simplified dosing during crisis**
 - 100 kg (220 lbs) or less: 100 mg
 - Over 100 kg (220 lbs): 150 mg
 - **Plan on hypotension in ill patients:** IVF limitations and **NOREPINEPHRINE** IVPB per Covid-19 SOP
 6. **Tube insertion/confirmation**
 - Skip all assessments (Mallampati, LEMON, etc.) that will expose you to aerosolization
 - Approach all ETIs as a difficult tube; use videolaryngoscopy, curved channeled blade, preloaded bougie in ETT
 - Anticipate rapid desaturation during procedure; keep O₂ 15 L/NC running
 - **If CPR in progress:** Pause chest compressions < 10 sec while passing tube to minimize aerosolization
 - Visualize black line of ETT at level of cords to avoid having to auscultate for depth
 - Inflate cuff; place **viral filter on ETT** prior to bagging (new Tower of Power: ETT-Viral filter-ETCO₂ sensor- BVM)
 - Confirm tube placement with ETCO₂, not deep auscultation
 - Auscultate over anterior neck to detect airflow past balloon cuff; **ensure minimal leak** to ↓ risk of aerosolization
 7. **Post Intubation**
 - **Sedation:** Preference: Ketamine pain dose/Advanced Airway SOP; avoid midazolam due to risk for hypotension
 - **When intubator doffs PPE,** use hand sanitizer on neck and ears if not covered by PPE.
 - Discard disposables per policy before leaving space