

23 March, 2020

Dear Colleague,

As everyone is now well-aware, the number of coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19) cases, caused by the novel SARS-CoV-2 virus, are rapidly rising across the UK. Many of the most severe patients may require invasive ventilatory support for respiratory failure or to facilitate general anaesthesia for surgery. Airway management and tracheal intubation are known to be an aerosol-generating procedure, and therefore may predispose staff performing it to contracting COVID-19.

The incidence of COVID-19 in healthcare workers is thought to be higher than the general population. This incidence may be higher in healthcare workers who have been exposed to high viral loads while undertaking aerosol-generating procedures, such as tracheal intubation. There is no large-scale data on the association between airway management and the development of COVID-19.

The Difficult Airway Society, in association with Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, have therefore developed a COVID-19 Airway Management Project: intubate COVID. The objectives of this are: 1) to ascertain the incidence of airway managers and assistants who develop COVID-19 within two weeks of airway management; 2) to document associations of risk factors with COVID-19; 3) to examine the use of PPE during airway management of COVID-19 patients; 4) to assess the demographic of airway managers; 5) to allow healthcare professionals to track their airway management activity; and 6) to allow local and national-level collection of airway management activity across the NHS and provide information to support policymakers.

This will be achieved by users creating an account and self-logging all airway management of COVID-19 patients on an encrypted, anonymous database: [bit.ly/intubatecovid](https://bit.ly/intubatecovid). A two-week reminder will be sent to registered users seeking follow-up. All data will be fully encrypted and adhere to GDPR standards. Ethical approval was waived for this project. This project has been supported by the Association of Anaesthetists, Intensive Care Society and the Royal College of Emergency Medicine.

Thank you for participating in this project, and please look after yourselves and your families in this difficult time.

Best wishes,

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