



1. Intensive training  
2. Early intervention

3. Meticulous planning  
4. Vigilant infection control

5. Efficient airway management  
6. Clear communication

## USE A 'BUDDY CHECK' FOR CORRECT PPE FITTING

### Planning

Intervene early - aim to avoid emergency intubation.  
Negative Pressure room or Normal pressure with strict door policy.  
Senior clinician involvement. Is Anaesthetist needed?  
Early airway assessment documented by senior clinician.

### Prepare

Assemble 5-6 person Airway Team (see reverse).  
Use COVID-19 Intubation Tray (see reverse).  
Ensure Viral Filter and ETCO2 in ventilation circuit.  
Share Airway Strategy. Use a dedicated COVID intubation checklist.

### PPE

Hand Hygiene (HH).  
Donning: HH > Gown > Mask > Eye-protection > Hat > HH > Gloves.  
Spotter to perform "Buddy Check" to ensure correct PPE fit.  
Airway operator to consider double gloves.

### Pre-Ox

45 degree head up position.  
Pre-oxygenate with Face Mask using 2 hands for full 5 minutes.  
Ensure a square ETCO2 waveform, to be confident of no leaks.  
Avoid Apnoeic Oxygenation techniques due to aerosolization risk.

### Perform

Use VL; use the screen (indirect view) to maximise operator distance from airway.  
Modified RSI technique (1.5mg/kg IBW Roc OR 1.5mg/kg TBW Sux).  
No ventilation prior to intubation unless for rescue oxygenation.  
Wait 60 seconds for paralysis to take effect - avoid triggering cough.

### Post-ETT

Inflate cuff BEFORE initiating ventilation and monitor cuff pressures to minimise leak.  
Remove outer gloves (if on), dispose of airway equipment in sealed bag.  
Doffing: Gloves > Gown > HH > Hat > Eye Protection > Mask > HH. Use a Spotter.  
Debrief and share lessons.

#### Awake Intubation

Risk of aerosolization. Involve Senior Anaesthetist if this airway technique is indicated.

#### Connection / Disconnection

Apply the viral filter directly to the ETT.  
Only disconnect the circuit on the ventilator side of the viral filter.

#### CICO Rescue

Scalpel-bougie technique to avoid aerosolization.

