

## CRSA COVID-19 Statement

As the COVID 19 pandemic escalates around the world, the CRSA would like to express solidarity and full support to all doctors, medical staff, health care workers, and institutions committed in the everyday frontline battle against this virus.

At the same time, the association is strongly endorsing the adoption of all precautions and measures to contain the spread of the virus and decrease the risk of infection for all personnel and patients.

The epidemic penetration is different in different countries and cities, but many institutions are canceling and postponing elective surgeries to decrease patient risk and allocate more resources for Intensive Care Units.

There is no evidence that MIS laparoscopy in a COVID 19 positive patient increases the risk of aerosol contamination but anyway CRSA endorses the following precautions:

- Postpone all elective surgeries (mainly for benign pathology)
- Avoid laparoscopy in COVID 19 positive patients (or patients with a highly suspicious history)
- Wear full PPE for every patient contact (N95 masks, goggles, gloves and gowns)
- Keep at a minimum the number of OR personnel and bedside assistants
- Minimize venting from ports
- Only allow anesthesiologists in the room during the induction/intubation
- Respect proper donning and doffing of PPE
- Wash/disinfect your hands frequently and always after doffing PPE

Hoping that this worldwide emergency will end soon, CRSA encourages everybody to stay safe at work.

We are sure that all members will continue to deliver the highest standards of medical care and ethical commitment.

For your reference and updates on COVID 19 we are attaching some useful links from the main societies and associations.

Best regards

CRSA BOARD

<https://www.facs.org/covid-19>

<https://www.sages.org/recommendations-surgical-response-covid-19/>

<https://www.ascassociation.org/resourcecenter/latestnewsresourcecenter/covid-19>

<https://www.sgo.org/clinical-practice/management/covid-19-resources-for-health-care-practitioners/>

<https://www.asahq.org/in-the-spotlight/coronavirus-covid-19-information>

<https://www.sccm.org/disaster>

<https://www.wfsahq.org/resources/coronavirus>

<https://www.anesthesia.utoronto.ca/news/coronavirus-and-safety-precautions>

<https://www.asahq.org/about-asa/newsroom/news-releases/2020/03/joint-statement-recommending-a-surgical-review-committee-for-covid-19-related-surgical-triage-decision-making>

WHO - [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)

WHO - [Novel coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\)](#)

WHO - [Emerging respiratory viruses, including nCov: methods for detection, prevention, response and control](#)

WHO - [Online training as a weapon to fight the new coronavirus](#)

CDC - [Information for Healthcare Professionals](#)

MSF - [MSF update on novel coronavirus outbreak](#)

WHO - [Report of the WHO-China Joint Mission on Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)

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