

New Guidelines on Management of Critically Ill COVID-19 Patients Released by the Surviving Sepsis Campaign Initiative of SCCM and ESICM

To quickly disseminate the latest knowledge and guide diagnosis, care and treatment of critically ill COVID-19 patients during the rapidly evolving pandemic, [guidelines](#) were released today by the Surviving Sepsis Campaign, a joint initiative of the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM) and the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine (ESICM). The evidence-based guidelines will be updated regularly online on the Surviving Sepsis Campaign website as new evidence becomes available. They also seek to help protect patients and healthcare workers from further spreading the disease.

The Surviving Sepsis Campaign COVID-19 subcommittee panel (36 experts from 12 countries) issued 53 statements based on the available evidence, four of which are best practices based on high-quality evidence:

1. Healthcare workers performing aerosol-generating procedures (e.g. intubation, bronchoscopy, open suctioning, etc.) on patients with COVID-19 should wear fitted respirator masks, such as N-95, FFP2 or equivalent – instead of surgical masks – in addition to other personal protective equipment, such as gloves, gown and eye protection.
2. Aerosol-generating procedures should be performed on ICU patients with COVID-19 in a negative pressure room, if available. Negative pressure rooms are engineered to prevent the spread of contagious pathogens from room to room.
3. Endotracheal intubation of patients with COVID-19 should be performed by healthcare workers with experience in airway management to minimize the number of attempts and risk of transmission.
4. Adults with COVID-19 who are being treated with non-invasive positive pressure ventilation or a high flow nasal canula should be closely monitored for worsening respiratory status and intubated early if needed.

Additional, detailed guidance is provided in the new [guidelines](#). For more information or to speak to an expert about the guidelines, email Lauren Martin at LMartin@pcipr.com.