

Irish Thoracic Society Statement on Bronchoscopy: Pathway for Essential Bronchoscopy

- Bronchoscopy is considered an Aerosol Generating Procedure (AGP). Only essential staff should be present.
- Link: (https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/infectionpreventionandcontrol/guidance/aerosolgeneratingprocedures/AGPs%20for%20confirmed%20or%20possible%20COVID19_v2.0_23032020.pdf)
- All endoscopy staff need to train in proper PPE use. **Video Link:** <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/videoresources/>

Essential Bronchoscopy:

Bronchoscopy and endoscopy units should now consider the reintroduction of essential non-urgent bronchoscopy

Factors that need to be taken into consideration include:

1. National social distancing protocols in relation to the endoscopy patient
2. Availability of endoscopy staff with loss of staff due to transfer, sickness and isolation
3. Isolation in unit pre-, peri-, and post procedure and deep cleaning of endoscopy room procedure
4. Availability of PPE with limitation to essential staff during procedure. However Respiratory Trainers should now discuss with their endoscopy units the need for PPE for Trainees and plan to reintroduce trainees to bronchoscopy.

The HSE Acute Operations Endoscopy Programme will shortly release “Guidance for safe bronchoscopy unit operations in pandemic conditions” in conjunction with the ITS.

A recent HSE guideline on resuming elective activity - *HSE Interim Guidance on the Management of Procedures that are Day Case – Involving anaesthesia or aerosol generating procedures (AGPs)* – has been circulated to hospitals and should be considered in conjunction with this guideline. It provides a framework for resuming services to be tailored to local conditions, specialty needs and in line with clinical judgement.

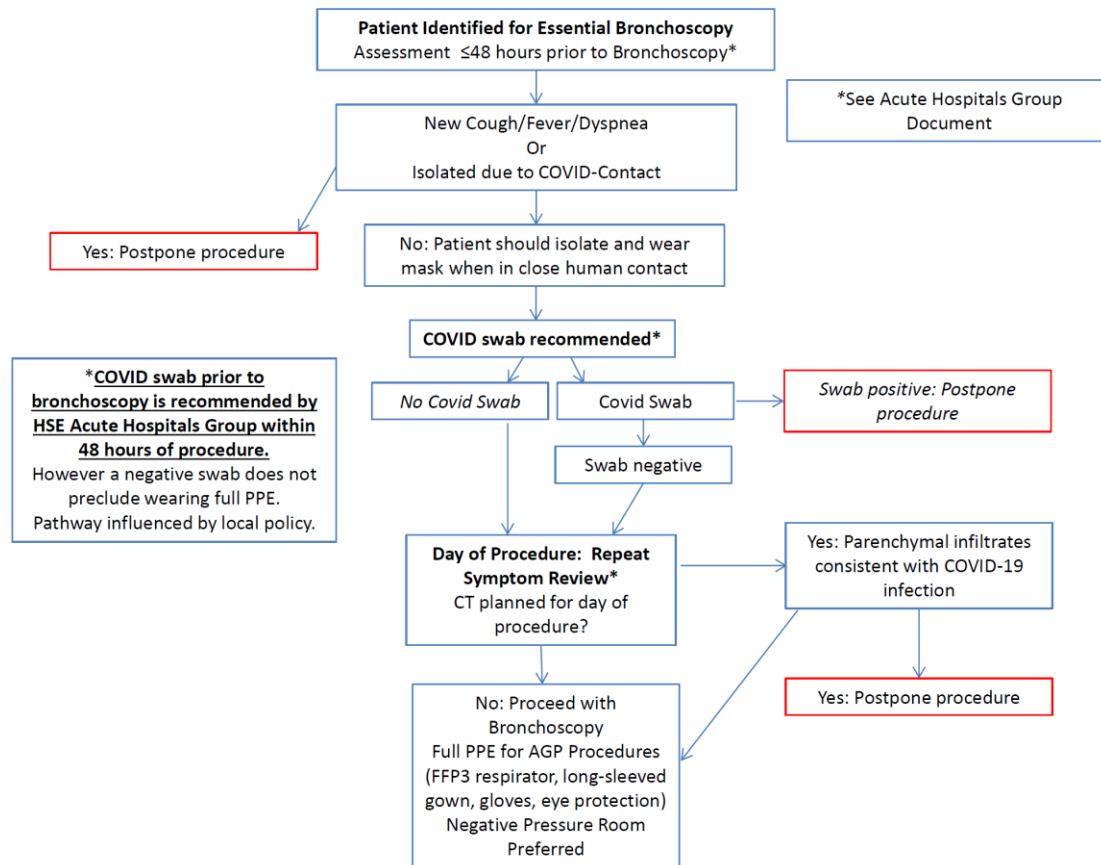
This document regarding [pre- procedure screening of patients for COVID-19](#) is also useful:
Link

COVID-19 Swab pre-procedure:

- A negative swab should not reduce vigilance and full PPE with FFP-3 mask should be worn regardless of swab result.
- Data regarding COVID-19 serology is limited at present and use in planning for procedures is unclear.

Patients with COVID-19 Infection (Confirmed or Suspected):

- Avoid bronchoscopy within 28 days from onset of infection
- Contact patient and reassess fitness at day 28- if continuing symptoms defer for 7 days and reassess
- If no symptoms- patient enters pathway below and requires a negative COVID swab pre bronchoscopy



Other Information at:

<https://irishthoracicsociety.com/2020/03/2533/>

<https://aabronchology.org/2020/03/12/2020-aabip-statement-on-bronchoscopy-covid-19-infection/>

<https://www.ersnet.org/the-society/news/novel-coronavirus-outbreak--update-and-information-for-healthcare-professionals>

<https://www.brit-thoracic.org.uk/about-us/covid-19-information-for-the-respiratory-community/>