

COVID-19: Very Rapid Updates and Safety (ViRUS)

Risk of aerosol generation.

What happened?

Risk of aerosol generation from disconnection during movement of head in intubated prone patient.

Why might this be more likely than usual to happen during the COVID-19 pandemic?

High use of proning for COVID-19 patients. Greater risk to staff due to high risk infected patient.

How could this have been identified early in its course/how it could have been prevented or mitigated if recognised earlier?

Ensure ventilator in pause/temporary disconnect mode before moving head/airway manipulation which will prevent ventilator free flow during a disconnection.

How have you managed to resolve this issue or create a work around?

Pause ventilator temporarily as above. Also taping of ventilator tube connections to reduce risk of disconnection. However, ET tube must be held securely by staff member during proning process to prevent accidental decannulation.