

Dear Colleagues (as a BAOMS Fellow or Retired Fellow)

As we all come together to fight the coronavirus pandemic, we and our teams are facing exceptional challenges. Many of us and our teams have been or will be redeployed. We will be asked and trained to take on tasks which would normally be well outside our usual scope of practice. During this testing time, we will need to support each other and be kind to each other. We need to ensure that we and our teams are safe and to highlight to the deployment divisional lead should they feel out of their depth.

BAOMS has shared with our specialities (ENT & Oral Surgery) our COVID statements and guidance. These can be found on the BAOMS webpage, along with other guidance.

https://www.baoms.org.uk/professionals/omfs_and_covid-19.aspx These may need to be updated as more data become available.

The availability of appropriate PPE has been well publicised and is part of our on-going survey <https://savingfaces.wufoo.com/forms/z10urj1o1c5hw7w/>. The key message is keep yourself and your team safe, particularly in managing those suspected but not confirmed COVID positive.

One area of immense concern for many of us is surgical airway support for ventilated COVID positive patients. Literature shows these patients have a high mortality rate and there may be limited benefit for surgical tracheostomy. This may also change but for those teams involved in providing surgical airway for ITU, consider creating a dedicated tracheostomy team. This allows planning of such procedures and maintains regular multidisciplinary contact with ITU. The above link also has tracheostomy advice from Kings and ENT UK.

Covid19 Testing is likely to come online in the coming weeks and this will further aid teams in safely planning their workforce.

There is lots of experience and expertise within the BAOMS Consultants' and Specialists' Group (CSG) if you feel professionally isolated, please contact us via office@baoms.org.uk

These exceptional times mean consultants are under immense pressure. Support each other, your SAS and Trust Grade colleagues, your junior doctors and dentists and your nursing team.

Do take care of yourself remember to eat, rest and once daily exercise as recommended.

Yours

Kathy and Bhavin
Kathy Fan King's College Hospital
Bhavin Visavadia Northwick Park

Please also visit the Consultant and Specialists' Group area of the BAOMS website:

https://www.baoms.org.uk/professionals/consultants_specialists_group.aspx

29 03 2020