



## The British Association of Paediatric Endoscopic Surgeons

### **BAPES Statement: Coronavirus (COVID-19) and endoscopic surgery**

Released 22/3/20 (N.B. recommendations are subject to change)

The possibility of viral contamination during laparoscopy and thoracoscopy is being closely reviewed by surgical groups around the world. BAPES current recommendation is that each Surgeon should abide by their own Trusts infection control theatre policies for confirmed or suspected COVID 19 patients.

The use of devices to evacuate and filter CO2 aerosolised viral particles could be considered and is being instituted for cases in many international institutions however you should be guided by your own trusts policies in this regard.

In addition a decision needs to be made whether the risk to staff is outweighed by the benefit to the patient of laparoscopy over an open approach. As yet there is no clear evidence to support either operative modality as an increased or decreased risk over another.

Endoscopy and airway procedures are high risk aerosolised procedures and measures should be put into place in accordance with your own individual trust PPE protocols.

BAPES will aim to update you regularly on any new evidence as it becomes available.

**[www.bapes.org.uk](http://www.bapes.org.uk)**