



What CRNA's and APN-A's Need to Help During the COVID-19 Pandemic



Nurses are on the frontlines of the Coronavirus Pandemic, caring for those in need and risking exposure to ourselves and our families.

We need action by New Jersey legislators to help us get the resources and protections that will enable us to do our jobs, protect ourselves and our families and step-up to serve helping to ease the nursing shortage to care for the thousands of people suffering from COVID-19.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Growing experience has shown that there can be a 5-day or longer incubation time between exposure to the COVID virus and development of symptoms.

Laboratory testing for coronavirus is not universally and promptly available.

As a result, identification of who is COVID positive or negative with certainty is not possible in the setting of clinical care.

We strongly believe as optimal practice and deem it necessary that all anesthesia professionals should utilize PPE appropriate for aerosol-generating procedures for all patients when working near the airway.

Do not allow our highly trained anesthesia providers operate on the front lines without any Personal Protective Equipment. That would be like fighting a war without firearms.

Paid and Sick Leave/Own Occupation Rates

Many of our provider are sacrificing their health on the front lines every day, and it is imperative we maintain our paid sick leave and extended vacation time during and post crisis.

Due to the crisis, APN-As are being utilized as registered nurses in their facility, however, any role that each APN assumes, it is essential that they are compensated at their own occupation rate.

Joint Protocol

APN-A's (previously known as CRNAs) are Advanced Practice Nursing- Anesthesia providers with years of intensive care experience prior to specializing in anesthesia.

With a mandatory minimum of approximately 10,000 hours of education and training in airway management, ventilatory support, and critical care patient management.

APN-A's are uniquely prepared to provide vital, lifesaving patient care throughout the course of this pandemic and the months after.

Currently they are also artificially tethered to physician anesthesiologists through a state regulation known as a "Joint Protocol," however, prior to 2009, this was not the case.

New York repealed the Joint Protocol for CRNA's, and Arizona opted out of physician supervision for all CRNA's and APN-A's to help fight the COVID-19 crisis.

Support our nurses, protect patients, and make the "Consumer Access to Health Care Act" bill A1760 would eliminate the requirement of "Joint Protocol" a reality.

In times like this, every resource must be mobilized to care for the citizens of New Jersey. Preventing APN-As from practicing to the full scope of their license due to political posturing is short-sighted and no longer practical during this critical time.

Make sure to visit our Voter Voice platform through the link below and send your legislators an email or tweet to get them to support our efforts for CRNA's and APN-A's.

VOTER VOICE: <https://www.votervoice.net/NJANAPAC/campaigns/72985/respond>