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We have also sent an information request and proposed a letter of agreement to all our represented hospitals, including Grande Ronde Hospital (GRH) to verify that they have plans and supplies in place to deal with this outbreak and that our members don’t suffer physical or financial harm during this time.

As a reminder, while there has been both a national emergency and a state of emergency declared in Oregon, our contract remains in place.

**Changes to your scheduling and hours must be negotiated.** The state of emergency declaration for Oregon allows for the provisions of the staffing law to be waived.

Your units don’t have to follow the staffing plan if the hospital has declared an emergency, also staffing law prohibitions on mandatory overtime are waived.

We know that unfortunately many of you have had to cancel vacation or other plans due to travel restrictions and event cancellations.

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What should a nurse do if they feel their assignment is not safe due to not having appropriate or adequate personal protective equipment (PPE)?

1. Nurses who are immunocompromised should notify their employers now, or as soon as possible of the risks for them in caring for a patient with COVID-19, asking to not take care of these patients. If this request is refused, please document that refusal.

2. If a nurse is asked to care for a patient with COVID-19 and does not believe that they have the PPE necessary to do so safely. It’s important to raise those concerns. First, make sure you are aware of what the current centers for disease control and prevention (CDC) guidelines for the type of patient they are asking you to care for (rule-out/ positive/monitoring).

3. After you have determined that you are being asked to take an assignment you don’t feel is safe, raise that issue with the charge nurse, then the supervisor, or manager. Clarify what your concerns are, what the evidence supporting that concern is and then ask for the PPE that you think is needed.

4. If you are still being directed to accept the assignment, accept the assignment and file a staffing request and documentation form (SRDF) and contact your labor representative or bargaining unit leader.

While we recognize that this current situation is fluid and rapidly evolving, the safety of our members is important and can’t be sacrificed.

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**Steward Training!**

Anyone interested in learning more about their rights and benefits as a union member? You are invited to attend a virtual steward training on Saturday, April 25, 2020. Stay tuned for more information. Sign up by emailing Salemi@OregonRN.org.

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**Don’t Miss Important ONA Emails**

1. **Mislabeled:** Emails from ONA are being flagged as junk or spam by your email service provider.

2. **No Email:** ONA does not have an email on file for you.

3. **Bad Email:** ONA has an incorrect or outdated email on file.

4. **Blocked:** Due to several failed delivery attempts, our system has stopped attempting to send emails to your email address.

5. **Opted Out:** You have opted out of receiving emails.

6. **Work Email Filters:** Some health care systems filter out ONA emails so nurses don’t receive ONA-related emails. This is why we encourage nurses to use their personal email addresses instead of work emails.

**Fixing Problems to Receive ONA Emails**

1. **Check your junk/spam/clutter folder for ONA emails:** Flag ONA emails as “not junk/spam” and add News@OregonRN.org to your safe sender list.

2. **Email ONA:** To fix reasons 2-6, simply email ONA at News@OregonRN.org, and include your name, personal email and facility you work at in the body of the email.