Information About COVID-19

Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) is working hard to make sure that nurses and our patients are taken care of during this time. To that end ONA has set up a resource page for our nurses at oregonrn.org/coronavirus. It currently has information about the work we have been doing and a gathering of resources and information for reference.

We have also sent an information request to all of our represented hospitals to verify that they have plans and supplies in place to deal with this outbreak. 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. So, your units don’t have to follow the staffing plan if the hospital has declared an emergency and also staffing law prohibitions on mandatory overtime are waived. While provisions of the Oregon hospital nurse staffing law may be waived, our contract is in effect, so contract language must be followed. The contract is in effect, whatever language the contract provides, must be followed.

Personal Protective Equipment

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

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.

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 OHA guidelines for the type of patient they are asking you to care for (Rule-out/ positive/monitoring).

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 RN, 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.

If you are still being directed to accept the assignment, accept the assignment, then file an SRDF (or go to: www.OregonRN.org/115) 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 just be sacrificed.
ONA 2020 Statewide Elections

The 2020 ONA Statewide Elections are now open for voting.

Visit www.OregonRN.org/elections or follow LINK

COVID-19 Survey

To report a violation of Coronavirus protocol in your facility, please email practice@oregonrn.org with as many details as possible while being mindful of HIPAA guidelines.

ONA is also asking all members to take an ONA COVID-19 Workplace Survey to help better understand the work being done by facilities across the state.

To stay up to date on the work being done and to take the COVID-19 Workplace survey, visit: COVID-19 Workplace Survey Link

ONA Convention and House of Delegates Postponed

To ensure the health and safety of our members through the COVID-19 pandemic, ONA has made the decision to postpone the ONA Convention and House of Delegates. We took this decision very seriously and felt it is in the best interests of our members and our patients to move the convention to a later date. We are currently exploring all of our options and will likely look at a new date in September. We will provide more details when they are finalized.

Important Information about Postponed Convention

• Those who have registered for the convention will have their event registrations canceled and will be refunded their registration fees. We will open registration again at a later date and will ask everyone to register again at that point.

• If you have reserved a hotel room, you must call to cancel your reservations as this will not be done automatically.

• ONA constituent association delegates will not have to reapply to be delegates. However, everyone will have to register to attend the convention again once a new date and schedule of events is finalized.

If you have any questions, please contact us at News@OregonRN.org.

Common Reasons for Not Receiving 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.