Providence Health System
One of Wealthiest in World

By the time most people will get to this newsletter, the New York Times article about the amount of money given to hospital systems, including Providence, during the pandemic will have been shared around the region (https://nyti.ms/2zsLuN2).

Providence has responded to the article, claiming it did not reflect the facts and is not housed in a context of reality. The bottom line is that the Providence system has come to two of our negotiation sessions and stated clearly that there will be no raises. They want a shortened contract and Providence is looking for take backs. This threat to these smaller non-metro nurses is a threat to all.

ONA’S RESPONSE

The Providence Health System is one of the wealthiest hospital systems in the world. Providence is a multibillion dollar organization that has received hundreds of millions of dollars of public bailout funds just this spring.

Despite being one of the richest hospital systems in the world, frontline healthcare workers across Providence are being asked to bear the brunt of lost profits from temporary closures of elective surgeries and procedures during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Providence is so wealthy that its venture capital fund alone generates more than $1 billion in profits every year. With more than $12 billion cash on hand, Providence must put essential workers in a pandemic before profit margins.

Frontline healthcare workers just faced one of the most challenging periods our profession has ever encountered and deserve to be treated with fairness, not struggling to cover their financial expenses.

What is allowed today in Hood River and Medford will creep into every facility. ONA has made a request for information regarding Providence finances on behalf of every nursing bargaining unit, especially those currently in negotiations. When the documents arrive, they will be scrutinized, examined and examined again to verify the claims of inability or unwillingness to pay for deserved raises and compensation for the work nurses do every day for Providence.

The nurses in Hood River and Medford will be asking for help in the coming months as they work for fair settlements. Everyone’s help will be needed. In other words, stay tuned.
Track Your Paychecks

Now more than ever, members need to understand the collective bargaining agreement to identify contract violations or other concerns.

**Check your paychecks to be sure they are correct.** Review your rates of pay, leaves, leave balances, and any of your benefit totals. If you have any questions about taking leave, your pay, working conditions or any benefits, contact your steward or a bargaining unit officer and ask if the new practice or omission is right. If not, you need to take the concern to human resources for discussion and correction.

We are getting many reports of administration making payroll mistakes. When we bring the issues forward the message is, “the situations can only be corrected on an individual basis,” so if you have a question or need to make a correction to your paycheck, the issue needs to be taken to human Resources for correction or explanation.

ONA COVID-19 Resource Center

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, ONA is dedicated to keeping nurses and our communities safe. One key aspect of this work is providing up-to-date information and guidelines related to COVID-19.

**Reopening Elective Surgeries**

ONA has published a position statement regarding Oregon’s plan to reopen elective surgeries, along with a document that outlines the common questions to help guide nurses through the reopen process.

These documents and other practice guidelines can be found at [www.oregonrn.org/covid-guidelines](http://www.oregonrn.org/covid-guidelines).

**Declining an Unsafe Assignment**

ONA has issued guidance to our members on declining unsafe assignments for COVID-19 patients when lack of PPE, safe staffing levels, or breakdown of triage protocols put your health at risk.

**Share Your COVID-19 Stories**

We invite everyone to share your stories about how COVID-19 has impacted your practice, your workplace and your life. Your stories will help educate officials, elected leaders, the media, and the general public about what is really happening in our health care system.

[Share your stories today](http://www.OregonRN.org/coronavirus) to help in the advocacy efforts as we push for safer conditions for nurses, health care workers and patients!

To learn more about all of these issues and to stay up to date on the work being done and to take the COVID-19 Workplace survey, visit: