Contract Action Team Meets

Latest updates plus
Contract Action Team Meets
May 25 at 6:00 & 8:00 PM!

COVID-19 has led to a need for enhanced member engagement. The Oregon Nurses Association (ONA)/Association of University Registered Nurses (AURN) members have organized to create a more powerful voice for nurses throughout OHSU.

The strength of our unity is demonstrated through the commitment of over 200 members who joined the contract action team (CAT)!

Our CAT’s activity in the workplace has led to us achieving some of the strongest standards for nurses in the Portland metro area during the current pandemic.

These standards include:
- Wage protection,
- added sick-time and admin leave,
- access to testing; and
- a task force that has improved standards for PPE safety and the overall quality of care.

Bargaining Returns May 27

ONA/AURN’s nine-member bargaining team will be back in negotiations on May 27.

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has created additional urgency from our member activists throughout Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU).

Hospitals throughout the state are asserting economic hardship and claiming major budget shortfalls as the result of closing elective surgeries and a decline in patient census, including OHSU.

It’s important to highlight, that OHSU has seen a substantial economic boom over the past ten years, with over a billion dollars in excess revenue. Also, the university recently spent 50 million dollars just to create a plan for hospital expansion, with a new tower and added bed capacity. This new hospital expansion is expected to be approved in September 2020 and will likely absorb substantial portion of hospital revenue.

At the same time, OHSU is claiming budgetary uncertainty and made cuts to employee salaries.

The concerns resulting from a lack of personal protective equipment (PPE) and training throughout the country during the COVID-19 outbreak make it clear that unnecessary expenditures on administration and investments, as opposed to vital patient needs like care providers and protective equipment, is irresponsible.

Now is the time to unite and ensure that resources are used for care providers and equipment and not wasted on unnecessary expenditures that don’t support patient safety.
**Contract Action Team - Two Meetings**

**Contract Action Team Meetings:**
Monday, May 25 at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.

6 p.m.
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89385140662?pwd=Z2lvREFqREZtcjFRNmdSNXdhTU9LQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89385140662?pwd=Z2lvREFqREZtcjFRNmdSNXdhTU9LQT09)

Meeting ID: 893 8514 0662 Password: 706443

One tap mobile:
+16699006833,,89385140662#,,1#,706443#

8 p.m.
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89819186976?pwd=QTFORDU4dUR0WXJuMXpnTXJMMjE0Zz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89819186976?pwd=QTFORDU4dUR0WXJuMXpnTXJMMjE0Zz09)

Meeting ID: 898 1918 6976 Password: 689511

One tap mobile:
+12532158782,,89819186976#,,1#,689511#

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**COVID-19 Task Force**

**COVID-19 Task Force Winning Strong Commitments for Patient Safety and Contract Enforcement.**

Our COVID-19 MOU created a Nurse Task Force, which was established so that RNs would have a direct line to advocate for adequate and accessible PPE, patient safety, quality of care protocols, and equity in our workplace.

Here are some of the patient safety achievements our Task Force has created in collaboration with OHSU’s Chief Nurse Executive (CNE) Dana Bjarnason.

- **Majority of OHSU Departments continue PPE Use According to Manufacturer Standards:**
  - In most units reuse or extended use are not necessary because of the volume of patients and overall supply of PPE at this time.

- **Extended or Reuse is “recommended” on certain units where training has occurred:**
  - OHSU recognizes there are risks associated with not using PPE according to manufacturer standards. Therefore, leadership is recommending, but not requiring, extended or reuse, as it is not mandated though is helpful with conservation objectives.

  - **Not Trained?**
    - You should not be reusing or extending use until formally trained.

  - **Don’t Feel Safe?**
    - OHSU and ONA/AURN leadership are encouraging every employee who feels unsafe at extending or reusing to avoid such practices, unless and until they feel safe to do so.

  - **PPE Accessibility:**
    - Adequate PPE will be immediately available on each unit and should be readily accessible for every RN. Please let your leadership team know.

*continued on page 3*
COVID 19 Task Force  
(continued from page 2)

♦ Code Carts for Each Unit:
  • Code Carts are now stocked with five packets of PPE inside the bottom drawer of every cart. This is a permanent addition to the Code Carts so the PPE packets will be restocked each time the code cart is used.

Our improvements came from our members uniting and working collaboratively with the task force to advocate for patient safety. Here’s how to get involved:

♦ Escalate your Department’s interests:
  • If you and your coworkers have a systemic concern that needs to be addressed send a text to Joseph West at (503) 449-2083.

♦ Advocate for your Workgroup at the COVID-19 Task Force:
  • You and your coworkers are your department’s expert. You can attend a task force meeting to directly advocate for patient safety.

♦ Email CNE Directly:
  • In the interest of collaboration OHSU’s CNE Dana Bjarnason at bjarnaso@ohsu.edu.

OHSU’s Historical Collections & Archives

OHSU’s Historical Collections & Archives has launched a project to document the impacts of COVID-19 on the OHSU community. The aim is to capture a wide view of how the pandemic is affecting our daily lives, education and work. Documentation can be in virtually any format:
  • Audio recordings/voice memos,
  • Oral history-style interviews (please maintain social distancing protocols),
  • Videos,
  • Photos,
  • Zines,
  • Websites,
  • Journal/diary entries,
  • Emails and more.

Sharing our experiences and stories, especially during intense, emotional or stressful times, expands our connectedness and well-being. Hearing stories from others helps us to connect and strengthens our community. Taking the time to document these stories while they are happening is important to help future generations understand this experience in context.

We invite ALL members of the OHSU community to contribute to this historical documentation project. Please visit Documenting COVID-19 at OHSU to learn how you can become part of this project, or email Steve Duckworth, University Archivist, for more information.
Completing the Staffing Request & Documentation Form (SRDF) During the COVID-19 State of Emergency

SRDFs & COVID-19

Many processes within hospitals have changed since COVID-19 came to Oregon. With the current state of emergency, it is not required that the hospital follow staffing plans or the Oregon Hospital Nurse Staffing Law.

However, it continues to be crucial to collect staffing data from within our facilities. The SRDF collects many data points in addition to whether the staffing plan has been followed, and we encourage all members to continue filling out SRDFs when an unsafely staffed shift occurs or patient care is impacted.

To make filling out an SRDF as accessible as possible, the online form is mobile compatible, and a computer is not required to fill it out.

The information gathered in SRDFs allows ONA to track staffing data and provide information to hospital wide staffing committees. It also provides valuable information to labor representatives about how specific units are staffed, and can be used to assist with OHA complaints.

HOW TO FILL OUT THE SRDF

If you work a shift with insufficient nurse staffing, you should complete the following steps:

1. Notify someone in the chain of command;
2. Ask for additional staff;
3. Ask for a response in a reasonable period of time, (e.g., minutes, hours) and;
4. Complete the SRDF as detailed below.

The nurse should complete the SRDF at the end of the shift or as soon as is possible. The SRDF can be found online at OregonRN.org/SRDF. This version is web and mobile compatible.

A PDF copy is automatically emailed to the nurse and to ONA, and it is the nurse’s responsibility to forward a copy of the completed form to the nurse manager, PNCC chair, and staffing co-chair. The SRDF should be completed even if the problem is corrected quickly.

Questions about the SRDF process?
Email SRDF@OregonRN.org

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.

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 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: