Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU)
Association of University Registered Nurses (AURN)
Bargaining Update
Dec. 3, 2020

ONAOHUSU
Executive Committee
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Harold Fleshman, RN
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Vice President
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7C Neuro ICU
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Nurse Priorities Are Essential
Our Interests Are Our Patients’, Communities’, and Families’ Interests!

92% OF NURSES WHO HAVE VOTED SAID YES TO ATTENDING THE OHSU PICKET!

Vote now to stand with them using the QR code, or go to: www.SurveyMonkey.com/r/2020ONAAURNPicketVote

COVID-19 Protections: Continue our COVID task force, rights to PPE, added sick time and paid leave through the pandemic!

Equitable Pay: The most profitable hospital in the state should not provide one-third less raises than southern Oregon when they have a billion dollars in savings.

Safe Nurse Staffing: OHSU needs to commit to addressing 33 of 44 RN staffing plan violations, including minimum nurse staffing, meal and break coverage, and acuity measurements.

Stand in unity with your bargaining team by wearing our countdown button and face masks on our first mediation date on Dec. 9.

Are you interested in taking your career to the next level? Apply today for the Oregon Nurses Association’s Nurse Leadership Institute (NLI). This free, year-long program is designed to help you improve your leadership and communication skills. Join a dynamic group of people who want to make positive change in health care through politics, practice and labor. In 2021, the NLI will focus on equity in nursing and health care during a series of monthly classes, a group project and a mentorship opportunity.

Space is limited. The deadline to apply is Jan. 31, 2021. Learn more at: www.OregonRN.org/NLI
During Pandemic, Nurses Standing Together Is Our Best Protection

Nurses are the most vulnerable workers during the current pandemic. CNN recently confirmed that RNs have the highest infection rate of any worker for COVID-19. As frontline nurses, we know this isn’t surprising. We provide a substantial portion of direct care for patients in most medical settings. If we don't have ensured protections like access to PPE, a strong voice over safety protocols, added protections like paid leave for quarantine, and added sick time, both patients and the nurses who care for them suffer. Our protections are scheduled to run out Jan. 1, 2021.

At the outset of the COVID 19 outbreak, safety risks pervaded OHSU's ED. Nurses, physicians, and ED techs stood together and advocated for significant improvements. These included having an additional triage nurse during each shift, increased access to PPE and effective reporting and accessibility protocols. Their work laid the foundation for our COVID-19 MOU that affords significant benefits.

Recently, Oregon has experienced a substantial spike "surge" in COVID cases. OHSU's administration needs to appreciate input from nurses on the frontline to ensure protection for them, our patients and our state’s broader community. During our recent task force meeting, charge nurse Diana Bijon presented the need for PPE upgrades to reduce risks during donning and doffing protocols to address patient to patient spreading in the waiting room, improving staffing and assignments and the need to prepare an overflow tent.

Hello! I’m Diana, Bijon, Emergency Department (ED) RN for almost 11 years at OHSU. Before that, I was an RN for 3.5 years in the ED at UCLA Westwood.

Since the start of COVID, I have been a strong advocate for the safety of ED patients and staff. Nine months in, I am concerned about PPE fatigue in the setting of high volume and acuity of ED patients, with complicating factors including near daily short staffing, and a cleaning burden falling to ED staff in triage. I am also concerned about the quality of our PPE and the availability of PPE moving forward. Also concerning is the official decision to no longer cohort COVID patients, including in the ED. My greatest concern so far, is the expiration of COVID benefits, which may result in more employees coming to work sick, compromising the safety of patients and colleagues alike.

I would like all OHSU RNs to stand empowered in a united effort to ensure our voice is heard. We are advocates for our own safety so that we can continue to advocate for and provide excellent nursing care at OHSU.

Warmly,
Diana

Nurses Out Front: The Future of Nurse-Driven Health Reform

Nurses have not always been full partners in making decisions about health care reform despite their extensive frontline experience.

- What are nurses’ health reform priorities?
- How can nurses influence health policy?

If you are looking to make a difference, log on to an upcoming discussion on Friday, Dec. 11, 2020, hosted by Oregon Health Forum (OHF) and sponsored by Oregon Nurses Association (ONA). The event will also cover addressing systemic inequities and how they will shape future policy.

Click here to register for this free event today!

www.oregonhealthforum.org/2020/10/01/december-3-2020-nurses-out-front-the-future-of-nurse-driven-health-reform/