Nurses Week

Nurses Week is Just Around the Corner

Next week is Nurses Week, and your Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) bargaining team is working on a plan for recognizing the critical work Providence Medford Medical Center (PMMC) nurses do every single day to care for our patients and keep them safe.

Now more than ever, nurses are absolutely essential, not only at PMMC, but to our entire society. Although, the World Health Organization stepped forward and designated 2020 as the International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife in honor of the 200th anniversary of Florence Nightingale’s birth, nobody anticipated what a challenge this year would bring.

This year has turned nursing upside down and created new ways of caring for our patients and each other. So far nurses have gone head-to-head with all that 2020 has had to throw at us. We continue to show the world that nurses are not only essential but also a critical aspect in our healthcare system.

Due to social distancing this year we will not be able to do the normal rounding with goodies and the many thanks that we have been able to do in the past. Your ONA/PMMC executive team is meeting and exploring ways we can honor all the hard work that each and every one of our nurses do every day. As we are coming up with a plan, we would like to send to our nurses a message of gratitude for all you do to help heal and keep our communities safe.

Important Notice to Nurses on Mandatory Low Census

Important notice to nurses on mandatory low census (MDO) and your right to unemployment benefits.

For nurses, including per diem nurses, that are having their shifts cancelled and lose hours your ONA/PMMC executive team want to make sure you are aware that you may be eligible for unemployment benefits through the state of Oregon.

Providence had failed to extend the state of emergency (SOE) benefit beyond the April 30 date. ONA is continuing to push the importance of continuing this benefit during this period of time where we will be reopening the surgical services areas.

Providence’s response to this earlier this week was ‘We cannot continue to pay out the salaries and benefits without the revenue coming in’. They also stated they feel like MDO will decrease with the opening of surgical surgeries. ONA asked for data to support this information. Providence stated they do not have the data at this time.

All nurses, including per diem nurses, have the ability to apply for unemployment benefits, as a partial continued on page 2
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layoff. Even if your hours are not consistent, they factor into your base yearly earnings, and you may still be entitled to unemployment compensation. There is also additional funding as a result of COVID-19, that may increase your unemployment benefits beyond what is typically paid.

• Click here to file for unemployment

Stay Informed and Stay Safe at Work

The ONA/PMMC bargaining unit leadership wants to make sure in these unprecedented times that you are informed of your rights as a union member and as a nurse. Be sure to visit ONA’s COVID-19 Resource Center at www.OregonRn.org/Coronavirus for an abundance of information to keep us updated, informed and safe. Informative FAQs regarding working during the COVID-19 crisis:

www.OregonRN.org/coronavirus
www.OregonRN.org/coronavirus/FAQs

www.OregonRN.org/coronavirus/COVIDPregnancyFAQ

Other links to important issues we have been hearing on the units: Are you concerned about being exposed to the COVID-19 virus on your unit because you don’t have adequate PPE? Understand your rights to decline an assignment under the Oregon Board of Nursing (OSBN) rules.

• www.OregonRN.org/declining-unsafe-assignments
• OSBN Updated Position Statement on COVID-19
• OHA Provisional Guidance: Clinical Care & Healthcare Infection Prevention & Control COVID-19
• CDC Sequence for Putting On PPE

Another resource are video conference calls that are occurring on Tuesday’s and Friday’s. This is open to all Bargaining Unit members throughout the state.

Petition to Governor Brown to Stand with Health Care Workers

Oregon nurses and frontline health care workers are risking their lives every day to save the lives of patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We’re asking Governor Brown to insist that health care employers come to the table with their workers and get COVID-19 protections in place before the lives of Oregon health care providers are lost.

By signing this petition, you take direct action to remedy this crisis by urging Governor Brown to intervene in this extraordinary public health and workers’ rights emergency.

Click here to sign petition.

Send this link www.OregonRN.org/Petition to your friends and family.

Stand united against COVID-19.

Click here to sign the petition or visit www.OregonRN.org/Petition