Providence Portland Medical Center (PPMC) nurses organize (virtually) during the COVID-19 pandemic.

By ONA Family Birth Center Nurses

The Family Maternity Center nurses were concerned about inadequate protection as we started to receive COVID-19 positive patients on our units, which include the NICU, Mother Baby, Labor & Delivery and Perinatal Specialty Care Unit.

We felt that our concerns were largely unaddressed by management, so we decided to organize. Two days later, we held a virtual meeting attended by 40 Family Maternity Center nurses representing all four units.

We discussed our concerns and created a petition with plans to hand deliver it to our management the following week. We circulated the petition using a texting tree and the response was swift. Within 30 hours of posting the petition, two-thirds of all the Family Maternity Center nurses signed the petition. See page 2 for a copy of the petition.

To date, the Family Maternity Center managers have not responded to the petition.

Universal masking and supplied PPE came to our units prior to the delivery of the petition, though we continue to be told we do not need to wear N95s in our surgical cases or during deliveries, both of which have a high likelihood for aerosolizing events.

Management should resource RNs so we can wear N95 masks during surgical cases and deliveries. Otherwise, Providence may be out of step with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention & Occupational Health and Safety Administration guidelines.

Nurses are still awaiting timely notifications of workplace exposures and the response to these exposures is still unfolding case by case. Priority testing for nurses with confirmed exposures is not happening. There is no transparent policy related to caregiver exposure.

Though we have accomplished some of our needs for a safe workplace, we will continue to raise our collective concerns and demands for a safe work environment so that we can care for our patients without risking harm to ourselves and our family members.

Next steps? Organizing among PPMC RNs house wide. Many units are expressing similar concerns.

Look for future notifications regarding how you can add your voice.
ONA Providence Maternity, Perinatal, Mother-Baby, and NICU RNs Standing Up for Patient and Nurse Safety

We are ONA. Through our collective power, we can take a stand to protect each other and our patients during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

We, the undersigned ONA Nurses, call on Providence Portland to immediately implement the following, so as to secure a safe workplace and support safe patient care.

1. Our units should function under the assumption that all patients are positive, and consequently act to provide PPE for nurses to wear during all patient care. This includes face masks, gloves, gowns, and face shields for general patient care. For OR cases and aerosolizing procedures, N95 or capr/ papr must be provided.

2. ONA Nurses have a right to be informed after potential or confirmed exposure. Management must shorten significantly the delay between potential/confirmed exposure and communication to the relevant nursing staff.

3. Management must secure priority testing both for nurses with potential/confirmed exposure to COVID-19 & for nurses furloughed due to exposure, who are seeking a return to work.

4. Management must do whatever is possible, and spend whatever funds are required, to immediately secure sufficient PPE. Nor should PPE be rationed under lock and key at a level which places nurses and their patients at significant risk.

5. Nurses should always have adequate access to sanitation and restroom facilities, especially when required to move between "hot" and "cool" patient areas.

6. Communicate a clear and just policy for care providers with known exposure.
Oregon nurses and frontline health care workers are risking their lives every day to save the lives of patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Yet, far too many of our hospitals and facilities are not protecting us. For more than a month, frontline Oregon health care workers and their unions have fought 24/7 for the minimum of COVID-19 protections. However, the vast majority of hospitals, clinics, and health care facilities in Oregon have refused to agree to emergency COVID-19 protections for health care workers; and after our courageous health care workers helped flatten the curve to delay Oregon’s surge, it is critical that employers treat their workers with the respect and dignity they deserve and do everything in their power to protect nurses, first responders and all essential workers. That's why 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. Stand with frontline healthcare workers in Oregon, who’ve already gone too long caring for COVID-19 workers without adequate protections. [Click here](www.OregonRN.org/Petition) to sign petition. Send the link to your friends and family, too:

COVID-19: What to Do if You Don’t Have Adequate Childcare?

By ONA Staff

Several hospitals have been surveying nurses and other frontline health care workers to assess whether they have adequate childcare. Some facilities have systems in place to assist with childcare needs and accommodations, while others have left this critical need to their staff to determine.

In partnership with the Oregon Health Authority, the Early Learning Division has created new tools for addressing concerns in childcare around COVID-19.

[Click here](http://www.findchildcareoregon.org) to visit the Emergency Child Care website for more information

Essential workers, such as nurses, can receive a customized referral to an emergency childcare program by:

- Calling 211. Listen to the prompt for “Child Care” & press the specified number
- Texting the keyword “children” or “niños” to 898211 (TXT211)
- Emailing children@211info.org
- [Click here](http://www.findchildcareoregon.org) to visit the Find Child Care Oregon website

Additionally, the state has increased the income eligibility for the emergency childcare subsidy and waived all family co-pay requirements for families that qualify.

There is also a process to get your current childcare provider qualified and paid for by the State. Keep in mind, the application appears to only be for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), but it will also cover the Employment-Related Daycare Program (ERDC) and when the eligible worker calls to verify the application the worker needs to note they are interested in ERDC.

[Find out if you qualify for the emergency childcare subsidy by applying online here.](http://www.findchildcareoregon.org)

[Click here](http://www.findchildcareoregon.org) to view new ERDC Temporary Income Limits.
Read the Latest ONA COVID-19 FAQ

By ONA Staff

The Oregon Nurses Association COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions is a frequently updated resource full of helpful information for frontline nurses providing care during the COVID-19 pandemic:

♦ How do I make a request for an accommodation under ADAA?

♦ Are there recommendations for pregnant healthcare workers? Should I avoid caring for patients that may be infected with COVID-19?

♦ If my department is closed, can I be forced to float?

♦ My hospital wants me to reuse N95 masks, is this okay?

♦ With hospitals cancelling elective surgeries, can they just essentially layoff surgical services nurses for two to eight weeks?

♦ Can I refuse to take a COVID-19 infected patient or suspected patient because someone with an underlying health condition lives in my household?

Find answers to these questions and many more, by visiting the ONA COVID-19 FAQ at: www.OregonRN.org/Coronavirus

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