To ONA members,

Since Friday, Oregon has gone from one confirmed case of Coronavirus in our healthcare facilities to three. We have received reports from frontline ONA members of suspected Coronavirus cases in at least three additional facilities, which have not yet been confirmed. We have also heard disturbing instances of appropriate practice protocol not being followed by hospital administrators in multiple facilities across the state, and in Washington.

Incidents ONA members have observed firsthand include failure to mask patients with Coronavirus-like symptoms during triage, failure to supply adequate fitted N95 masks to nurses caring for patients with potential cases, and failure to maintain proper quarantine of the family and healthcare provider team of suspected Coronavirus patients.

These breaches of practice standard put us as nurses directly at risk.

ONA has worked diligently through the weekend to implement a Coronavirus response that will keep our members, patients, and communities safe. This has included:

• ONA staff traveling the state to observe protocol to facilities with suspected cases
• ONA conducting an information request to all 50+ ONA facilities to gather information on management’s plans for protecting members and enforcing practice protocols
• ONA engaging with the governor’s office around the need for any furloughed or quarantined nurses to receive paid admin leave instead of being forced to drain earned paid sick leave banks
• ONA leadership sounding the alarm about the risk to our members this outbreak presents in published interviews with NBC Portland, the Oregonian, Willamette Weekly, and Pamplin Media Group
• ONA partnering with both ANA and AFT around a national response to the outbreak, spearheaded and driven by ONA leadership
• Partnering with the Washington State Nurses Association around a coordinated public message and response to the outbreak our two organizations are at the center of
• ONA coordinating with the Oregon Health Authority and a number of hospital employers in an ad hoc task force to manage Coronavirus response, containment, and resource management

We will continue working relentlessly to do the work needed to keep ONA members and our communities safe.

• To report a violation of Coronavirus protocol in your facility, please email practice@oregonrn.org with as many details as possible while being mindful of HIPAA guidelines.
• Please contact your labor rep with any information you have about suspected Coronavirus cases in your facility if you have not yet.
• Click here to read the latest guidance from the CDC on how to limit your exposure to the virus.

ONA is proud of the courage and commitment of Oregon nurses stepping up now to care for our communities during this public health crisis, and we will continue to do the work to ensure every step is taken to keep nurses and all health care professionals safe while doing so.

We are currently developing a process to elevate concerns related to Coronavirus protocol. More information will be coming soon.