Nurses Reach Tentative Contract Agreement at OHSU

Tentative agreement protects patients and nurses by extending COVID-19 safety measures and raising staffing standards

(PORTLAND, Ore.) – Nurses at OHSU successfully reached a tentative agreement on a new three-year contract with hospital administrators Dec. 10. The tentative agreement raises care standards by maintaining key COVID-19 safety measures, improving staffing levels and strengthening the voice of frontline nurses on safety, staffing and equity issues.

The nearly 3,000 registered nurses at OHSU are represented by the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA).

"This agreement is a win for nurses, our patients and our community. By extending critical COVID-19 safety protections and raising staffing standards, frontline nurses will be able to continue giving our patients and our community the care they deserve during and after this pandemic,” said ONA leader Rachael Mounts, a nurse at OHSU. “I’m proud our nurses stood together with the community and reached an agreement with the hospital that addresses Oregonians’ immediate and long-term health care needs.”

Nurses at OHSU have been negotiating with the hospital on a new contract agreement for nearly a year. The tentative agreement reflects nurses' priorities around safety and staffing by retaining COVID-19 protections, including a nurse pandemic task force and sick leave, while also committing to safe staffing measures which will improve patient care, including stronger unit staffing plans and relief nurses.

In an important step to attract skilled frontline caregivers during a national nursing shortage, nurses earned a cost-of-living increase to help recruit and retain
experienced health care providers. Nurses also won a commitment to advance racial justice and equity work at OHSU through work in nurses' unit-based practice committees.

The ONA/AURN nurse bargaining team is recommending a “yes” vote on the tentative agreement. Voting will be begin Dec. 21. If approved, the new three-year agreement will be effective immediately.

Community support was critical to the success of these negotiations. Nurses wish to thank their many community supporters and allies including our fellow health care workers at OHSU, statewide labor leaders, elected officials and local advocates who stood with nurses to ensure a fair contract which prioritized our community’s health and safety.

The Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) is the state’s largest and most influential nursing organization. We are a professional association and labor union which represents 15,000 nurses and allied health workers throughout the state. Our mission is to advocate for nursing, quality health care and healthy communities. For more information visit: www.OregonRN.org.