Dear Providence Oregon Caregivers,
Along with health systems across Oregon and nationwide, Providence is seeing a high number of patients with RSV, influenza or COVID, requiring hospitalization. To maximize the number of patients we can care for, Providence Oregon hospitals and units are moving into crisis care standards, as specified by the Oregon Health Authority. This will help us manage capacity to address the overwhelming demand for hospital services. All eight Providence hospitals in Oregon are included at this time. Hospitals and units will continue to evaluate the need for crisis standards of care. We will communicate any changes for crisis standards through your local ministry.

The Oregon Health Authority says that this change is activated during a national or state emergency for objective prioritization of care, prioritization of patients, and limitations on services because of the declared emergency. Today, in Oregon, we meet that criteria.

We are not making triage care decisions related to how resources are allocated. In order to prevent us from reaching that point, this declaration gives us flexibility to ease administrative burdens on nurses, adjust staffing plans and allocate more resources in areas where this might be needed, including staffing and nontraditional units of care. In addition, patient care responsibilities might change from our registered nurses to our respiratory therapists, and other caregivers may be used to support assignments with more patients or increased acuity.

Our Bargaining Committee’s Response

Now that Providence has declared Crisis Standards of Care at all Oregon hospitals -- including Seaside -- the company's refusal to include Seaside nurses in ongoing incentive negotiations demonstrates a real inequity in the company’s care model for Seaside patients. At other Oregon Providence hospitals, the corporation is offering:

- 12-hour shift: $500
- 10-hour shift: $415
- 8-hour shift: $335
- 6-hour shift: $250
- 4-hour shift: $170

But not at Seaside.

This is disappointing, as ONA nurses at PSH are facing similar conditions as their Portland-area and Medford counterparts: ED beds filled with boarders, unsafe patient assignments, and angry patients facing long wait times for care. Similarly, Seaside patients deserve the same safe staffing levels as their counterparts throughout the state.

We renew our call on Providence to choose patients over their own bottom line and engage our ONA bargaining committee in negotiations as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact your ONA labor representative, Gabriel Erbs, at Erbs@OregonRN.org.