At a time when nurses throughout the state of Oregon are being furloughed without pay or benefits secondary to the state of emergency orders related to COVID-19, we are happy to share that this is not the case at Rogue Regional Medical Center (RRMC).

Your RRMC/ONA team is in the process of negotiating contractual provisions that support our bargaining unit members income and safety.

We have reached tentative agreement (TA) that no bargaining unit nurse will suffer loss of wages or benefits during this crisis including:

- The ability for those nurses who work in departments affected by the mandated decrease of procedures to receive regular pay if placed on mandatory call off (MCO) due to the closure if they are willing to float to other assignments with appropriate orientation and training. Those opportunities for orientation and training are occurring now.
- We have agreement that bargaining unit staff will be utilized before any non-bargaining unit staff such as travelers or temporary staff as specified in Article 8.1.
- We have agreement that attendance issues as a result of illness, quarantine or child care availability will not result in disciplinary action for bargaining unit nurses.
- We have clarifying language regarding accommodation request for those bargaining unit members who meet the CDC guideline of “High Risk” will be honored and those nurses will be provided other work opportunities as available.

If no work accommodation is available, nurses will be allowed to access their ESDP without the normal 24 hours of ETO use and if the nurse exhausts the ESDP bank they will receive administrative leave pay for the remainder of the accommodation or other such date they are able to return to normal position duties.

- We have also reached agreement regarding housing assistance for those nurses who are required for quarantine secondary to COVID-19 exposure or COVID-19 illness.

Your RRMC/ONA team will continue to meet and discuss additional issues such as childcare assistance, additional recognition opportunities for those at increased risk secondary to significantly higher exposure risk, transparent communication about PPE availability, the number of PUI and COVID-19 plus patients and staff and regular updates about surge expectations and preparedness.

As we negotiate specific agreements related to this unprecedented situation, we continue to consider how all of this may impact our upcoming regular contract negotiations both financially and in additional language we will want to include should we be in such circumstances again.
Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

After passage of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Act (S.1399), Senator Wyden continues to advocate in Washington DC for appropriate resources to address the COVID-19 crisis. He invites you to join him in expressing gratitude for health care workers and to share what you are experiencing on the front-lines of this pandemic. This information is invaluable to helping him advocate for health care workers and patients as Congress continues its negotiations of corona virus response bills in the coming weeks and months.

ONA Video Call with Senator Ron Wyden
Tuesday, April 14, 12–1 p.m. PST
RSVP to your labor rep. or to Catie at Theisen@oregonrn.org for call-in information and instructions.

ONA Coronavirus Resource Center

As more cases of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) are reported and confirmed, ONA will continue working relentlessly to do the work needed to keep nurses and our communities safe.

Frequently Asked Questions

To help nurses and health care workers navigate the COVID-19 crisis, ONA has compiled a frequently asked questions document. Please check the FAQ to find the answers you need.

Declining an Unsafe Assignment

ONA has issued guidance to our members on declining unsafe assignments for COVID-19 patients when lack of PPE, safe staffing levels, or breakdown of triage protocols put your health at risk.

PPE Shortage

It is critical to get PPE in the hands of the frontline health care workers who need them in their fight against COVID-19. First and foremost, we are communicating the need for PPE. This requires federal action and we are also asking the legislature to pass similar emergency funding legislation to California and Washington to support public health.

Help raise awareness of the PPE shortage and how it impacts nurses and other health care workers on the frontline of care by adding a "PPE Now!" frame to your Facebook profile picture.

Report Violations

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.

To learn more about all of these issues and to stay up to date on the work being done and to take the COVID-19 Workplace survey, visit:

www.OregonRN.org/coronavirus