ONA Close to COVID-19 Agreement

ONA is close to an agreement with PeaceHealth administration on COVID-19 impacts.

Your Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) Sacred Heart Medical Center (SHMC) and Sacred Heart Home Care Services (SHHCS) executive committees have been engaged with PeaceHealth administration working to set the parameters of COVID-19 policies since March 12.

Lead by ONA labor representative, Tyler Whitmire, these negotiations have encompassed SHMC, SHHCS and Peace Harbor Medical Center (PHMC) bargaining units.

Our goal has been to protect your license while keeping you safe and healthy. The collective efforts (fueled by your activism and a cross partnership with other SHMC unions) have been successful. We have secured better protection policies, available shifts for idle nurses to fill, more paid time off for emergencies, and an emergency department ONA member in weekly contact with PeaceHealth Incident Command.

All of you and your experiences over the past few weeks have been invaluable for informing this policy making process. ONA has met with PeaceHealth administration three times and we have carried forward many of our collective concerns.

We are very close to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will provide more clarity and certainty for our members during this time of uncertainty. PeaceHealth started this process saying they did not want to sign onto a formal agreement with us. They recently changed their position and have been negotiating with ONA in good faith working towards signing a MOU.

Going forward during this pandemic response, we want nurses’ voices at the table with administration, adequate personal protective equipment (PPE) and communication about PPE status, regular updates on the status of COVID-19 positive cases, proper training before accepting a new assignment and an extension on the use of education funds. Our main goal is to increase transparency and expand the partnership required for good decision making.

All of us want to do our best for the community we have chosen to serve. We need support, resources and information. The collective voice of our members has been consistent and sincere; we want to be partners through this crisis, not adversaries, so we can give the best care to our parents while also protecting caregivers.

We hope that PeaceHealth will continue to listen and use our ideas, the ideas of front-line nurses, so each of you can feel safe and confident so we can fight this pandemic together; united for the community. Stay tuned for updates and more information about our progress on this effort.
Emergency Department Petition Gets Results

At the end of March, ONA members joined with Service Employees Union International (SEIU) and Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals (OFNHP) members to circulate an online petition in support of workers in the Riverbend and University District emergency departments.

The petition called on Sacred Heart to provide clear communication about the status of and use of PPE, better communication about policy changes and the inclusion of front-line emergency department (ED) workers in policy and operational decisions for these units.

The action was successful in getting a response from Sacred Heart who committed to improving communication with ED workers and agreed to include an ED nurse in the PeaceHealth Incident Command briefings. Alisa Ward, a Riverbend ED nurse and nurse staffing committee representative has volunteered to be the liaison to Incident Command. Having her there providing on-the-ground feedback to Incident Command should result in better communication to ED about policy changes and held ensure those policies are workable and helpful to ED staff.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the petition. This is one more example of how we can get positive change when we stand together and take action.

Community Comes Together to Support Nurses

Community comes together to support nurses and other healthcare workers!

We are fortunate to live in a wonderful community. When news of the COVID-19 pandemic and the projected shortage of PPE for front line caregivers became known, many people in the Eugene-Springfield community started talking about how they could help nurses and other health care workers. Cheryl Brewer, retired SHMC RN from OHVI 5; and Lynda Pond, ONA President and retired SHMC Labor and Delivery nurse, are both talented quilters and knew the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations included homemade masks that could be used in the unthinkable situation of a local shortage of PPE supplies.

From the CDC web page:

“In settings where N95 respirators are so limited that routinely practiced standards of care for wearing N95 respirators and equivalent or higher level of protection respirators are no longer possible, and surgical masks are not available, as a last resort, it may be necessary for HCP to use masks that have never been evaluated or approved by NIOSH or homemade masks. It may be considered to use these masks for care of patients with COVID-19, tuberculosis, measles, and varicella. However, caution should be exercised when considering this option.”

Annie Maguire, retired SHMC RN from the Regional Infusion Center, contacted Maureen Smith, retired ONA Labor representative, with a similar idea. They started talking to friends and family and were soon connected to the University of Oregon’s Office of Sustainability through a contact of SHMC hospitalist and former Pacific Northwest Hospital Medicine Association (PNWHMA) president, Dave Schwartz’s wife, Heidi. As this statement on their website (https://sustainability.uoregon.edu) explains, the U of O’s Office of Sustainability started “a grassroots effort to address urgent needs in our community and beyond. We are

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organizing donations of crucial handmade masks and professionally produced personal protective equipment (PPE) for our frontline medical professionals.” They have recruited volunteer drivers who are helping deliver fabric to makers and completed masks to local clinics, non-profits and hospitals. In addition, the U of O’s Technical Science Administration Department made 100 Face shields that were donated to Sacred Heart RiverBend last week! Briana Meier with the U of O is serving as lead contact and has helped organize these efforts.

In an awesome show of solidarity, Congressman Peter DeFazio’s campaign manager, Carly Gabrielson, heard about Eugene’s community effort and offered their campaign office as a drop-site for completed masks and PPE donations.

“The Seamsters” on Facebook (www.facebook.com/groups/seamster) has also started a mask making project and has over 2200 followers with hundreds of them making masks. They’ve provided thousands of masks to Peace Health Riverbend, McKenzie Willamette Medical Center, White Bird Clinic, Cahoots, Green Valley Rehabilitation Health Center, Cascade Home Health, Gateway Living, First Place Interfaith Family Shelter, Willamette Valley Cancer Center and many more clinics, non-profits and nursing homes. We’ve connected with Holly Simons from The Seamsters and are coordinating mask distribution with their awesome group of hard-working members!

Your ONA-SHMC executive committee and the PNWHMA (Hospitalists) executive committee have each donated to a local company Marley’s Monsters marleysmonsters.com/pages/marleys-monsters-n-95-mask-cover-project. Marley’s Monsters, a local shop for eco-friendly, reusable products, has turned most of their production to making masks. They’ve given 400 cloth masks for us to distribute to Sacred Heart nurses and we’ve been getting them out to units throughout RiverBend, University District and Home Care.

Lynda and Cheryl have spent long hours sewing, cutting filters, video chatting, emailing and texting to make sure the masks were distributed to nurses and community organizations. A “shout out” to Kendra Northam, OHVI 5, who has been fantastic help in getting masks delivered to RiverBend units. Sue Nicholson, former OHVI 5 nurse manager, helped with the project and gathered donations to go to Marley’s Monsters. Thanks to all!

Now, as mask production is at full speed, Nicole Brooks, formerly 8 Medical and now at the Pediatrics Clinic, is starting a group to focus on making head covers for health care providers. Her Facebook page is called “We’ve Got You Covered - scrub caps for medical staff.” Check out that page if you or someone you know can help with this effort!

We know that Sacred Heart is not currently allowing homemade cloth masks to be worn at work as long as they have a sufficient supply of the appropriate PPE to provide caregivers themselves. We’re happy to still provide masks to the units that want them. Contact Maureen Smith, mosmith13@hotmail.com in you want your unit to receive masks. In the meantime, we’re focused on getting masks to those organizations that are asking for help and know that giving them the masks can help stop the pandemic from spreading in our community.

We’re proud of all the brave nurses out there and are so grateful for all you do to keep our community safe. THANK YOU!

ONA/ANA COVID-19 Resources Available

Childcare
Eugene YMCA and the 4J are providing childcare for healthcare workers in the Eugene/Springfield area at this time. For details and registration go to: www.eugeneymca.org/youth

Lodging
The American Nurses Association (ANA) has formed a partnership with Hilton Hotels and American Express to provide lodging free of charge for ANA members who are concerned about exposing their families to the corona virus. Your ONA membership includes
Stand with Frontline Health Care Workers

Petition for Gov. Brown to Stand with Frontline Health Care Workers

Oregon nurses and frontline health care workers are risking their lives everyday to save 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. 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 Kate 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.

Sign the petition to urge Governor Brown to intervene in this extraordinary public health and workers’ rights emergency. We need every employer to help protect all nurses! Stand with all frontline health care workers in Oregon.

Although we have made good progress towards a formal COVID-19 agreement with PeaceHealth, many other ONA bargaining units around the state are struggling to get their employers to sit down at the negotiations table. Please support these nurses and other health care workers by signing the joint union petition which calls on Governor Brown to put pressure on hospitals to negotiate with their workers. Please share this link (www.OregonRN.org/Petition) with others and post in on your social media platforms too!

Click here to sign the petition or visit www.OregonRN.org/Petition

ONA Member COVID-19 Resources Available to Nurses  
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membership in ANA.

Email Memberservices@OregonRN.org if you have question about your membership or need your ANA member number.

This new ANA member benefit is designed to help keep your family and loved ones safe while you work on the front lines of this pandemic.

Here’s how it works:

1. Click on this link to visit the ANA Hilton Free Room Offer page. Since this page is only available to ANA members, to reach this page you must log in using the email and password associated with your active ANA membership.

2. Read the information on the page (including the link to the Frequently Asked Questions document) and click on the "Redeem Now" button.

3. Search the Hilton portal for available rooms. All rooms labeled "$0" are free.

4. Select a room reservation for up to 7 consecutive nights at Hilton hotels across the US.

Local Eugene/Springfield Hilton hotels include the Hilton Garden Inn in Springfield, the Home 2 Suites in downtown Eugene and the Hampton Inn on W 11th in Eugene.
As more cases of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) are reported and confirmed, ONA will continue working relentlessly to keep nurses and our communities safe.

Visit the ONA COVID-19 Resource Center on the ONA website to find updates and resources on the following topics and more:

- Frequently Asked Questions Answered
- Nurse Staffing and Declining an Unsafe Assignment
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Guidelines, Resources and Shortage Information
- Resources for Health Professionals
- Latest News on COVID-19 in Oregon