Many questions have been asked regarding where ONA stands on the new ruling made by Governor Kate Brown on Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2021. That ruling will require weekly COVID-19 testing for personnel in health care settings who choose not to disclose their vaccination status.

Scott Palmer, ONA Director of Communications, said: “This is a reasonable and sensible approach which respects the individual choices of health care workers while also protecting public health. ONA believes COVID-19 vaccinations are critical to protecting our members, our patients, our families and our communities and we urge all Oregonians who can get vaccinated to do so now.”

Currently, Oregon state law prohibits employers from independently mandating vaccines for certain limited categories of workers, including health care workers. This is an issue the Governor intends to work with stakeholders and legislators to address in the February 2022 legislative session.

Currently, employers with union-represented staff must recognize and honor a union’s right to bargain over changes to working conditions in represented facilities. ONA will work with our union members in facilities across the state to ensure employers respect our legally binding contracts. For further questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact your Labor Representative, Jessica Barnes, at Barnes@OregonRN.org.

Labor Representative, Jessica Barnes, will be visiting St. Alphonsus Medical Center – Baker City on Wednesday, Aug. 11, from 3 - 6pm in the Elkhorn Conference Room. If you have questions about ONA or simply wish to visit, please stop by.

Space is limited so register today at: www.OregonRN.org/Steward-Training