Information About COVID-19

Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) is working hard to make sure that nurses and our patients are taken care of during this time. To that end ONA has set up a resource page for our nurses at oregonrn.org/coronavirus. It currently has information about the work we have been doing and a gathering of resources and information for reference.

We have also sent an information request to all of our represented hospitals to verify that they have plans and supplies in place to deal with this outbreak. As a reminder, while there has been both a national emergency and a state of emergency declared in Oregon, our contract remains in place.

Changes to your scheduling and hours must be negotiated. The state of emergency declaration for Oregon allows for the provisions of the staffing law to be waived. So, your units don’t have to follow the staffing plan if the hospital has declared an emergency and also staffing law prohibitions on mandatory overtime are waived. While provisions of the Oregon hospital nurse staffing law may be waived, our contract is in effect, so contract language must be followed. The contract is in effect, whatever language the contract provides, must be followed.

Personal Protective Equipment

What should a nurse do when they feels their assignment is not safe due to not having appropriate of adequate PPE?

Nurses who are immunocompromised should notify their employers now, or as soon as possible of the risks for them in caring for a patient with COVID-19, asking to not take care of these patients. If this request is refused, please document that refusal.

If a nurse is asked to care for a patient with COVID-19 and does not believe that they have the PPE necessary to do so safely. It’s important to raise those concerns. First, make sure you are aware of what the current OHA guidelines for the type of patient they are asking you to care for (Rule-out/ positive/monitoring).

After you have determined that you are being asked to take an assignment you don’t feel is safe, raise that issue with the charge RN, then the supervisor, or manager.

Clarify what your concerns are, what the evidence supporting that concern is and then ask for the PPE that you think is needed.

If you are still being directed to accept the assignment, accept the assignment, then file an SRDF and contact your labor representative or bargaining unit leader.

While we recognize that this current situation is fluid and rapidly evolving, the safety of our members is important and can’t just be sacrificed.
Meeting Scheduled
Nurses from Ontario have set a meeting with management to discuss the low census tracking and rotation and the impact of the new low census cap. This meeting is currently scheduled as a video call Thursday, March 19 at 3 p.m. If you have comments or concerns regarding the low census system, please reach out to one of your ONA nurses and share, or email Ateusa salemi@oregonrn.org

Steward Training!
Anyone interested in learning more about their rights and benefits as a union member is invited to attend a virtual steward training! Saturday, April 25, 2020. Stay tuned for more information. Sign up by emailing salemi@oregonrn.org

COVID-19 Survey
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.
ONA is also asking all members to take an ONA COVID-19 Workplace Survey to help better understand the work being done by facilities across the state.
To stay up to date on the work being done and to take the COVID-19 Workplace survey, visit:
www.OregonRN.org/coronavirus

The 2020 ONA Statewide Elections are now open for voting. Visit www.OregonRN.org/elections or follow LINK

Oregon Nurses Make A Difference