Limiting access to facilities

Per a recent email from management:

“In response to the emerging risk associated with the spread of COVID-19, we will begin restricting the number of access points at each facility starting March 3 across St. Charles Health System (SCHS). The intent is to have patients, caregivers, providers and vendors enter facilities through a limited number of access points so we may keep our workforce safe and functioning as this public health issue continues to grow.”

In Bend, access will be through the main door 6:45 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Emergency Department 24 hours, and the Heart Center main door, 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Extra security guards will be present.

In Redmond access will be via the main entrance from 6:45 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and the Emergency Department 24 hours. There is the possibility of a security guard and a staff member (TBD but possibly a nurse) staffing the entrances. Security guard details are pending. Screening questions will take place at the entrances.

In Prineville, the main door 6:45 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Emergency room all day.

Nurses shall be paid for their scheduled shift despite any delays at the hospital entrances due to screening protocol. If there are any irregularities in this regard, please alert your Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) Officers or Labor Reps.

HIPAA Compliance

A reminder to be vigilant as always in Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Compliance. Care providers in other states have lost their jobs due to public statements that included identifying remarks about patients with the virus. This includes on social media. ONA, American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and American Nurses Association (ANA) will be doing regional and national media regarding the Coronavirus protocols.

Family Care Impact

SCHS management planning groups are taking into consideration the impact any future school closures would have on the health care work force. No plans are in place for this eventuality, but it is on the radar.

Staffing plans are being worked on for decreases in staffing due to illness or family care.

Turned Away and Return to Work

If a caregiver is ill and turned away from work, the caregiver can return to work when they are fever free for 24 hours without using an antipyretic.

The policy regarding absence and occurrences is still being discussed.

Equipment, Practice and Pathophysiology

Look for updates from SCHS with details related to protective gear, hygiene and cleaning products, equipment usage, practice standards and pathophysiology of the virus.

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. Please contact your labor rep with any information you have about suspected Coronavirus cases in your facility if you have not yet.
CDC Information

Prevention and Treatment Guidelines for COVID-19

Health Care Professional Resources

Rep Transition

Liz Weltin will be transitioning into the role of primary labor representative at St. Charles Redmond. Renee Ruiz will continue her work with St. Charles Prineville and Bend. Renee will continue with a few projects already in the works so you might still see her on the St. Charles Redmond campus working on those. Renee and Liz will continue to work collaboratively on projects that intersect in the system.

Liz Weltin is a retired RN and nurse-midwife. She lives in Bend with her family. She is also the Labor Rep to Lake District Hospital, Harney District Hospital, Klamath County Public Health and Sky Lakes Medical Center.

The 2020 ONA Convention and House of Delegates will be held on Monday, May 18 (CE Day) and Tuesday, May 19 (House of Delegates) in Portland, OR.

The convention’s theme is “Rising Up Together” and will feature sessions on professional development, nursing practice and workplace issues, as well as topics critical to ONA’s strategic plan including equity and inclusion. Participants of the CE day on Monday, May 18 will be able to earn up to 5.25 continuing nursing education contact hours.

Oregon Nurses Association is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation.

Registration is open through May 1, 2020.

Register today at www.OregonRN.org