COVID-19 MOA Update

To no one’s surprise, OHSU Hillsboro management was delaying the release of the Hospital’s Staff Exposure Algorithm—which was crucial for us to draft up a COVID-19 memorandum of agreement (MOA) counterproposal. But after circulating and delivering our COVID-19 safety petition, which a majority of nurses signed, the Hospital released the algorithm and scheduled an MOA bargaining session for Dec. 4, 2020.

We started the session by expressing our concerns about Employee Health and the Hospital not providing a safe working environment or offering protections for staff and our patients. We expressed our priorities which include paid administrative leave until COVID-19 test results are received, a moratorium on maximum PLH accrual, and the ability to use EIH for low-census hours.

However, the Hospital made it clear it wants to offer paid administrative leave ONLY for high-risk exposures (not for low or medium risk exposures) and offered a pre-scheduled short notice shift incentive of $10/hr to address staffing concerns instead of trying to make work safer.

The ball is now in our court. We have reached out to management and are ready to present our counterproposal. Our main priority is protecting ourselves and our coworkers, our patients, and our community. We urge the Hospital to make this its priority too. We are hopeful we can reach an agreement at our next session (Date: TBD). However, if the hospital refuses to prioritize staff and patient safety, we are ready to escalate through action!

If you have any questions or want to get more involved please reach out to your executive committee, stewards or your ONA labor representative, Sarahi Soto-Talavera, at Soto-Talavera@OregonRN.org.