



FRIDAY MORNING HUDDLE

DATE: March 20, 2020

Friday Morning Huddle: The purpose of the Friday morning huddles during this COVID-19 pandemic is to gather the Oregon nursing workforce together to both offer timely updates and share insights from peers.

Oregon Center for Nursing (OCN) Workforce Data Resources:

OCN has released several reports recently that contain information related to nurse workforce planning.

- [COVID-19 and Workforce Data](#)
- [OCN Reports](#)
 - [Primary Care Workforce Crisis Looming in Oregon](#) (2020)
 - [Shortage or Maldistribution: Shifting the Conversation About Oregon’s Nursing Workforce](#) (2019)
- [OCN Infographics](#)

Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN) Updates:

- **Schooling Alternatives.** OSBN has distributed communications to nursing schools indicating the schools can substitute for face-to-face clinicals. This applies if they are being locked-out of traditional sites or choose not to send students to clinicals. It is up to each program to identify alternatives and confirm these options continue to meet the clinical objectives of the placement. A list of potential resources was distributed to schools via email.
- **Closed Testing Centers.** Testing centers for nursing graduates are closed until at least April 16th.
- **Emergency Rules/GN Permits.** OSBN cannot start writing emergency rules without authorization from the Legislature or Governor. The Board has contacted several state representatives to seek legislative permission to allow the Board to suspend some statutes and be able to offer what used to be know as the “GN Permit.” This GN Permit would allow students who have graduated from nursing school, but who have not yet tested or received test results, to work at hospitals, go through orientation or work under the supervision of a licensed nurse. Organizations will be accountable for making sure nurses continue to practice safely. GN Permits would not be accepted by other states.

Graduates potentially eligible for the GN Permit (partial list)

George Fox University – 43

Chemeketa Community College – 36

University of Portland – 125

Southwestern Oregon Community College -31

Central Oregon Community College – 48

Concordia University – 108

- **CNAs Into the Workforce.** Looking at how to facilitate entry of CNAs into the workforce. OSBN must coordinate with the Department of Human Services and the federal government to make changes which will allow nursing students and other healthcare employees to perform CNA duties. DHS is requesting a federal waiver to allow the Board to certify individuals as CNAs without meeting all the federal requirements. More information is coming.
Some CNA tasks can be performed by non-professionals; however, this individual cannot be characterized as a CNA. The organization may write emergency policies instructing staff to perform certain duties and ensuring staff have been trained and are competent in the task. The Board has no jurisdiction over employees who are not licensed nursing staff (RN, APRN, CNA, LPN).
- **Out of State Nurses.** OSBN is issuing emergency authorizations for out-of-state nurses. Employers contact OSBN on behalf of their new hires to help expedite the process. Eighteen nurses have been approved in the last week. Though the application indicates it must be sent by mail, it is also permissible to scan and send in the information.

Clinical Placement Availability and Substitutions

- **OHSU** - OHSU has suspended all clinicals for all OHSU students including Nursing until at least 4/27/20. The school does not currently have access to classrooms or SIM labs. OHSU is currently working on plans for online didactic and virtual clinical learning.
- **Concordia** – Being excluded from most sites but still making decisions about how simulation will be used and for which student levels. Senior level students are still being allowed to continue clinicals as they can function as a partner in the units.
- **Chemeketa** – A variety of clinical partners have canceled clinical placements. The program has permission to bring students to campus and offer simulation in the sim lab if they can maintain a safe space for everyone. Faculty are developing online simulation and these simulations can be delivered in person while meeting space requirements.
- **University of Portland** – Virtual simulation starts Monday (3/23/20) for students. This plan was in place to accommodate potential snow days. Using designated software for virtual simulation. Made the decision to stop all clinical for sophomore and junior years because they were all placed in community-based settings with vulnerable populations to reduce patients' exposure. Senior year students are continuing clinicals as best they can. Currently taking inventory of equipment and supplies available on campus to share as needed.
- **George Fox University** – Switched all didactic to remote online learning. Sophomore and junior students were canceled and are using virtual simulation, case studies, etc. to meet clinical requirements and objectives. Hopeful that all seniors will be able to complete capstone hours in clinical facilities. Also exploring face-to-face simulation in small groups to meet safe space requirements.
- **Warner Pacific University** – After spring break, didactic will be delivered online. Simulation will be per social distancing rules and virtual SIM is ready to go.
- **SWOCC** - Senior students are all in clinical placements in the community. Still have clinical placements available for students, but situation is fluid.

Lack of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Resources Related to PPE

- [CDC Healthcare Supply of PPE Information](#)
- [Governor Brown's Executive Order Related to PPE \(Executive Order No. 20-10\)](#)

State of Oregon PPE Coordinator will coordinate surplus supplies from non-essential medical providers. Contact phone number is 971-900-9952.

Reports that staff being asked to use PPE across multiple patients/across multiple days/until it is unusable.

ONA is hearing from members that nurses are being asked to wear one mask per shift with a face shield over it and they are being asked to recycle the mask at the end of their shift.

Facilities are reporting that they have 60-90 days until PPE supplies can be replenished.

Several schools have donated their unused PPE to clinical partners.