



FRIDAY MORNING HUDDLE

A gathering of Oregon nursing workforce leaders together to offer timely updates and share insights from peers and stakeholders during the COVID-19 crisis.

DATE: April 24, 2020

Nursing Pipeline:

Summer/Fall Term Considerations. Schools are currently planning multiple potential scenarios for the Summer and Fall terms in case social distancing measures continue or are re-instated. Some schools are planning to hold didactic classes online, holding in-person continuing simulation and skills labs as social distancing permits. Some schools have delayed or deferred classes until July in the hopes they will be able to meet in person.

NCLEX Testing Capacity. Updates provided by the Oregon State Board of Nursing indicate that NCLEX testing in Oregon will be operating at 50% capacity by May 1st. They are considering expanding testing hours to increase testing capacity. Students are encouraged to get their testing scheduled ASAP as they may need to wait several weeks for an open test seat.

Remote Learning and Cheating. Nursing programs discussed methods they are using to decrease cheating during virtual testing/exams. George Fox University and several other schools are using a lockdown browser program (Respondus) which allows the student to only have one program/browser window open on their computer at a time. They are simultaneously having faculty proctor exams via Zoom to ensure that students are not using other devices to access information mid-test.

Students Worried. Several schools reported that students are adapting well to online learning and virtual simulation, but they are concerned about the effect decreased clinical placements will have on their future employability. Students continuing in Summer/Fall term are worried about long-term exclusion from clinical sites.

Workforce Needs:

Staffing Up. Facilities are worried about the backlog of patients and issues that have been put on hold during the COVID-19 crisis. Though telemedicine has been a means to providing some care, other care has been delayed. Kaiser Permanente is currently looking at projected care needs by area, and projected supply needs (i.e. staff, masks, gloves, gowns, etc.) associated with providing that care, then prioritizing based on urgency and availability of supplies.

Long Term Care. According to the Oregon Health Care Association, Oregon long term care has some of the highest staff-resident ratios in the nation ([OAR 411-086](#)). CMS/DHS regulate and monitor facilities to make sure adequate staffing levels are maintained. Long term care is receiving support from community partners in the form of support from health systems in making tests available to facilities/staff, providing support via telemedicine. Access to PPE has been an issue for long term care facilities (masks and gowns are still in need). View [up-to-date statistics](#) on COVID-19 prevalence in long term care.

Resources:

Oregon Nurse COVID-19 Response and Relief. Do you know a nurse who needs financial assistance for childcare or housing costs related to the COVID-19 pandemic? [Oregon Nurses Foundation](#) has set up a fund to help.

Updated Testing Guidelines for underserved populations and frontline workers were recently [released](#).

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FRIDAY, MAY 1, 8 A.M.
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