



FRIDAY MORNING HUDDLE

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

DATE: May 1, 2020

Long Term Care Staffing:

Recent staffing needs survey, conducted by Oregon Health Authority, reached out to long term care facilities, residential care facilities and home health/hospice organizations to assess their staffing needs. Preliminary results show more than 60% of organizations had staff leave or reduce hours recently. Many are working with staffing agencies to locate additional staff when necessary. Prior to the COVID-19 crisis, [data collected by the Oregon Center for Nursing](#) showed vacancy rates/turnover rates in long term care and home/health hospice were in the 20 – 30% range.

Re-opening Oregon:

Resuming Elective Procedures. The Governor's Office has allowed non-emergent/elective procedures to resume provided organizations can meet requirements related to capacity, adequate PPE supply, testing capacity, infection control/visitation/screening policies, and resources for perioperative care. Links: [Guidance for Hospitals](#), [Guidance for Ambulatory Surgical Centers](#), [Guidance for Medical and Dental Offices, and Other Health Care Settings](#)

Contact Tracing. Oregon Health Authority is developing a formal plan and additional detail will become available today regarding state's efforts to conduct contact tracing. Several schools are interested in exploring how nursing students might be utilized in the contact tracing process.

Patient/Employee Screening. Like contact tracing, Legacy Health System would like to explore the possibility of having students assist in screening employees/patients prior to entry into the facility. School partners would like to have additional conversation about what guidelines need to be in place to keep students safe.

COVID-19 Testing. Oregon Health Authority suggests organization's reach out to local public health authorities to receive information on how/where to get COVID-19 testing.

Resuming Clinical Placements for Students. While many organizations delayed clinical placements in March, some organizations have continued to provide clinical placement for students. Those who delayed clinical placements want to make sure their PPE supply is stable, their staff have adjusted to the new work environment and they have the ability to resume clinicals for all health care students before resuming clinical placements. For some facilities, resuming clinical placement is still not a top priority issue.

Innovations/Strategies to Prepare for Fall 2020/COVID-19 Resurgence:

Workforce Preparation. Look at training modules for nurses and other support staff to prepare for increases in ICU/critical care patients.

Public Health Expansion. How can public health capacity be expanded?

Emotional Health of the health care workforce.

PPE Supply. Establishing local/domestic PPE supply chains with trusted vendors and vetted quality.

**NEXT HUDDLE:
FRIDAY, MAY 8, 8 A.M.
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