



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: May 29, 2020

Nursing Education:

CDC Guidelines. The Center for Disease Control released updated [guidance for institutes of higher education](#) in May.

HECC Guidelines for Education. Oregon's Higher Education Coordinating Commission has prepared guidelines for Oregon institutions to consider using in reopening. The guidelines are currently under review by the Oregon Health Authority. In a [recent OCN webinar](#), HECC staff and committee members discussed the process used to formulate guidelines and general information on what to expect. The committee advocated for creating general operating guidelines for schools, instead of phased reopening considerations. In regard to contact tracing within institutions, the committee is advising institutions to collaborate with local public health authorities and utilize their contract tracing expertise, instead of developing internal contract tracing procedures.

In-Person Classes. Educators discussed upcoming terms and how schools plan to offer traditional larger didactic/lecture classes. While some institutions are considering breaking didactic classes into smaller group to allow in-person lectures, other schools are preparing to continue offering didactic classes using online/virtual technology.

Applications and Acceptance Rates. When asked about applications for future terms, community college representatives stated many programs experienced a decrease in the number of applications for the Fall term, however applications were received pre-pandemic and the decrease is unrelated. It is too soon to determine whether the pandemic has impacted the acceptance rate among applicants.

Nursing Workforce:

Residency Programs. OCN has conducted an informal survey of residency programs in Oregon. Many Portland-area programs have been canceled or delayed, while rural program still plan to continue. Many facilities continue to concentrate on existing staff use; job opportunities for new staff are undetermined.

Prioritizing Patient-Facing Staff. As facilities continue to look at the pandemic's impact on their budgets, they are looking at staff reductions, while trying to prioritize patient-facing staff.

**NEXT HUDDLE:
FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 8 A.M.**

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