



FRIDAY MORNING HUDDLE

A gathering of Oregon nursing workforce leaders together to offer timely updates and share insights from peers and stakeholders.

DATE: July 10, 2020

Workforce Concerns:

Availability of PPE. Most facilities present on the call are issuing daily PPE to staff as they are screened to enter work. If someone needs replacement PPE during their shift, it is available. However, staff perceptions and concerns about the availability of PPE continue to remain high. St. Anthony in Pendleton is now requiring goggles and/or face shields for all staff. They are currently allowing staff to bring eye protection from home so staff can use items that fit/work best for them. Legacy is starting mandatory eye protection next week. There are no clinical situations where cloth masks are being used, even in non-COVID settings.

Emotional/Mental Toll. Facilities are worried about emotional/mental exhaustion for staff who've been working in critical areas for an extended period. Lack of PPE is not driving the stress of nurses as much as the constant changes and ongoing crisis.

Increasing Cases. With facilities from multiple regions of the state present on the call, the wide range of responses to the pandemic were represented. Facilities like Columbia Memorial on the coast have seen relatively few cases in their community. St. Anthony's in Pendleton is a current hot spot. Though the county has 77,000 residents, they are seeing 40-50 new cases every day. Facilities in the Metro area have seen a steady demand for services since March.

Nursing Education:

Clinical Placements. Schools, especially in the Portland area, continue to be concerned about the availability of clinical placements in the Fall. Facilities who have not yet suspended clinical placements, have also not yet *confirmed* clinicals, putting schools in limbo. Schools are reaching out community-based care partners to discuss developing placements, but facilities are concerned about adding individuals into the facility and reduced social distancing. There also seems to be some confusion over whether students are essential personnel. Early in the pandemic, OHA released clarification that students were to be considered essential; an updated statement from OHA may assist the schools. Legacy Health continues to monitor the increase in COVID-19 cases locally, but hopes they will be able to offer clinicals for senior-level nursing students only by the end of this month.

New Clinical Opportunities. Legacy Health continues to have interest in developing a new clinical experience for students that would allow them to assist in screening stations at Legacy facilities. Conversation about ways to leverage students in public health departments was also discussed.

Resources:

Virtual Simulation Article. OCN's latest [newsletter](#) discusses the transition to increased virtual simulation in Oregon's nursing programs. Thank you to Clatsop Community College and OHSU School of Nursing for participating in the article.

Nurse Practitioner Workforce Webinar. Join OCN's Research Director Rick Allgeyer to [learn more](#) about our study showing only 25% of Oregon's nurse practitioners provide primary care.

Celebrate Nursing. OCN's Fall breakfast has gone virtual! Check out [details](#) on how to participate.

**NEXT HUDDLE:
FRIDAY, JULY 17, 8 A.M.**

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