



# FRIDAY MORNING HUDDLE

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

**DATE: July 31, 2020**

## Workforce Concerns:

**Current Environment.** Asante Health System spoke about managing a recent cluster of COVID-19 infections at one of their facilities. They are operating at near full capacity. They have had time to develop protocols around patient management, patient transfers and visitors. From a PPE perspective, Asante feels supply lines have stabilized. Eighty new nurse graduates will start a nurse residency program next month.

**Contract Labor/Travelers.** Though facilities sharing on the call did not report an increased reliance on contract labor, several are in the process of examining their contract labor contracts/pools to determine if changes need to be made. Legacy Health System has a staffing shortage team conducting an internal review of all units/departments. With many school districts delaying in-person instruction, the availability of childcare may affect staff availability.

**PPE Availability.** ONA continues to report its members are concerned about PPE availability and stability of supply chains in the midst of continued surges.

**Mental Health.** ONA, OCN and Lines for Life are working jointly on a project to establish a peer-to-peer support network for nurses experiencing stress and trauma.

## Nursing Education:

**Fall Term.** Most schools on today's call have plans in place to conduct online didactic/theory classes. Simulation and skills labs will be in-person classes with efforts made to keep students working in smaller cohorts and observe social distancing. Schools may have to look at altering instruction schedules to accommodate staff and students with childcare needs. Schools continue to try and identify clinical placement opportunities for Fall term. Some clinical partners are asking schools to test students for COVID-19 prior to placements in the facility.

**New Grad Job Outlook.** Multiple schools reported that new graduates have expanded their job search to look outside Oregon for placement. One influencing factor may be the availability of nurse residency programs. Schools continue to encourage students to consider settings outside of acute care. Asante Health reported a number of applicants for their nurse residency program came from outside of the state. Santiam Hospital said they continuously struggle with retaining employees who live outside their region. It is not unusual for a new hire to work for a year to gain experience, then leave for a job in the Metro area.

## Resources:

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

**Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Workforce.** Our recent webinar discussing our study methodology and findings is [available now](#).

NEXT HUDDLE:  
FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 8 A.M.

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