



# FRIDAY MORNING HUDDLE

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

**DATE: September 25, 2020**

**COVID Test Access:** A national laboratory has approached partners about the ability to provide at-home or drive-up COVID testing for healthcare students. In checking in with Huddlers, it seems long term care facilities, which still require testing as part of CMS requirements, have worked with schools to provide test access for students attending clinicals. Facilities are either covering the cost of the test or making arrangements to have the school cover the test cost.

**Facility Screening Procedures:** Huddlers on the call reported all facilities are still requiring attestations from visitors/staff related to COVID-19 symptoms. Most, but not all are requiring temperature checks. Some facilities are allowing staff to perform their own temperature checks.

**Impact of Childcare/ Home Schooling.** Many facilities have implemented flexible scheduling or are allowing staff to reduce work hours to accommodate childcare/home schooling needs.

**COVID-19 and Flu Season.** Facilities across the state are preparing in advance for the start of flu season. Vaccine clinics are being altered to be offered outside and/or in drive thru format to reduce exposure. The Portland VA is preparing and internally identify nurses with med-surg and critical care backgrounds to uptrain them in case of flu/COVID surges over the winter. They are converting several administrative areas (work now conducted remotely) into patient care areas.

**Clinical Placement Availability.** The Oregon State Board of Nursing will discuss clinical placement availability and its impact on nursing education programs at its November board meeting. Some programs, especially year-long LPN programs, have students with less than 50% of their clinicals in-person. A survey on clinical placement availability has been distributed to each nursing program.

**Resources:**

**OPHA Annual Conference:** The latest in public health research and trends, focused learning sessions, thought-provoking speakers, and plenty of networking opportunities.

**Nurses: A Year, A Moment, A Celebration!** Join OCN for this free virtual event on October 8.

**NEXT HUDDLE:  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 8 A.M.**

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