



# FRIDAY MORNING HUDDLE

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

**DATE: November 13, 2020**

## Nursing Workforce:

**Oregon Case Surge.** In response to surging case numbers in Oregon, organizations are changing operating procedures. Legacy Health has their system-level response team meeting multiple times throughout the day. They are considering activating emergency operation centers at the facility level. The biggest concern right now is staff furloughs due to COVID-19 exposure. Social distancing within the workplace is also a big concern. Legacy is trying to identify and reduce the number of congregation areas. For example, they are converting conference rooms into additional breakrooms so staff can spread out. Kaiser Permanente is experiencing the same issues. In breakrooms they are limiting the number of tables and chairs. Food sharing (i.e. potlucks/cookie trays/etc.) is not allowed. Kaiser yesterday announced that employees who have been exposed to COVID-19 will now be allowed to continue working as long as they remain asymptomatic. They are required to wear full PPE while at work (goggles, shields, mask). Santiam Hospital conducts an interview of any employee who has been exposed to COVID-19 to determine if the exposure was high-risk. If low-risk, the employee can continue working. Santiam also has in-house testing available with a 2 to 6-hour turnaround time.

**Compact Licensure.** Several organizations asked about the ability to join the NCSBN multi-state licensure compact to facilitate access to travel nurse/contract labor. According to OSBN, the decision to join the compact must be made at a legislative level. OSBN feels the politics of collective bargaining have kept the compact out of Oregon. Individuals interested in seeing Oregon enter a licensure compact were urged to contact OAHHS or their legislators. Rick Allgeyer from OCN pointed out that compacts can be useful to solve short-term regional crises, but it is unclear whether the compact would be beneficial given the current nationwide crisis. Additionally, it was pointed out that the compact is not seen as a solution to permanent residency or relocation. It is a solution meant primarily for contract labor/travel nurses.

**Emergency Authorizations.** The Board of Nursing clarified there are several emergency authorizations for temporary licensure currently in place with differing procedures. Oregon law allows for [long term care employers with emergency staffing needs](#) to request licensure exceptions. There is a separate emergency authorization for employers with [staffing needs related to COVID-19](#). All OSBN COVID-19 modifications can be found at <https://www.oregon.gov/osbn/Pages/COVID-osbn.aspx>

**OSHA Guidelines.** New guidelines from OSHA related to COVID-19 are available [online](#). Guidelines differ by employment setting.

## Nursing Education:

**Clinical Placements.** Several schools on the Huddle indicated they are seeing an increase in clinical placements delays/suspensions due to case surge.

**Student Positivity Rate.** Most schools present on the call did not report increased spread among students at this time.

**Faculty Turnover.** Some schools on today's call continue to worry about staff turnover due to COVID-19. Staff stress/burnout continues to be a worry as well.

**NEXT HUDDLE:  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 8 A.M.**

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