



Oregon Center for  
N U R S I N G

# FRIDAY MORNING HUDDLE

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

**DATE: March 31, 2023**

## Nursing Workforce:

**RN Test Observers:** A representative from Headmaster, Katie Gilbert, joined Huddlers this morning to talk about the opportunity for RNs to become nurse assistant test observers in Oregon. There is a current need for observers in the Portland area, but RNs interested in any area of Oregon are encouraged to apply. Eligibility requirements include two years RN experience with one year in long term care or direct care of chronically ill patients of any age. For more eligibility or other information, email [Oregon@hdmaster.com](mailto:Oregon@hdmaster.com) or call (800)393-8664.

**Increasing Preceptors & Educators:** Alanna Lowery, the Partnership Liaison Coordinator at OHSA, provided information to Huddlers about their current incentives to increase nurse preceptors and nurse educators through HRSA grant funds. The opportunity provides scholarships to students in the Master of Nursing Education Program and a 6-month preceptor non-degree program. The scholarship pays the tuition for both programs. OHSU is starting a new virtual cohort starting in Summer. Applications are open and due April 30, 2023. There will be another opening for the Fall with a priority deadline May 31, 2023. Though priority is given to employees of OHSU, Grand Ronde Hospital, Sky Lakes Medical Center, Asante Hospitals, and Salem Health partners, others are encouraged to apply. For additional information, please email [loweryal@ohsu.edu](mailto:loweryal@ohsu.edu).

**Masking Mandate Expiration:** OHA released an [announcement](#) on the mask mandate today as a reminder of the removal of requirements as of Monday. Also released this week was a [memo](#) from OSHA rescinding its COVID-19 Workplace Requirements for All Workplaces. Huddlers expressed that beyond these two entities, there are still federal rule considerations. Some organizations stated they will continue to mask in specialty areas and in areas with populations that may be at higher risk. Other organizations indicated that face-to-face patient care will likely continue to mask; however, the decision can change by department. Students' clinicals may or may not require masks, dependent on their specific placement location and organization's policies.

## Announcements:

**No Huddle Next Friday:** In observance of Good Friday, OCN will be closed. Don't forget to register for the rest of April's Huddles, resuming on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

**OCN's Nurse Well-Being Website Updates:** The OCN [RN Well-Being Project](#) website has recently been updated to provide information about the extended grant opportunity for Long-Term Care facilities, our recently funded projects, and OCN's Nurse Wellness Conference in May. Please [check](#) it out!

**Upcoming Conferences:** OHCA is hosting its [Spring Expo](#) April 21-22 at the Salem Convention Center. The [Forum on Aging conference](#) will be held in Seaside on May 15-17. OCN's [Nurse Wellness conference](#) will be held at the Salem Convention Center on May 23.

**Looking for CNAs:** The University of Georgia Institute of Gerontology is looking for CNAs to participate in a research study by completing a [15-minute survey](#).

**NEXT HUDDLE:  
FRIDAY, APR 14, 8 A.M.**

[REGISTER NOW!](#)

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