

Date: October 4, 2024



Oregon Center for  
N U R S I N G

# FRIDAY HUDDLE

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

## Nursing Workforce

**Order Free At-Home COVID Tests:** This fall season, residential households can order additional free at-home COVID test kits. Each household will receive four rapid antigen tests with free shipping. [Tests can now be ordered online through USPS.](#)

**Free RN Delegation Courses:** NurseLearn recently added four new online courses addressing delegation for registered nurses in Oregon. These courses are free online, along with 26 other courses tailored to community-based care nursing. All nurses licensed in Oregon and facility administrators can [access the learning resources at NurseLearn.com.](#)

**Congressional Guide to Navigate the Health System:** The Congressional Research Service published a 22-page guide that provides insight and resources to help connect community members with relevant federal, state, and local resources and programs. [Click here to access the complete guide as a PDF.](#)

**Exploring the Nursing Vacancy Crisis:** Inspired by a presentation that OCN gave at this week's Rural Health Conference in Bend, Oregon, Huddlers discussed the factors contributing to a continued nurse vacancy crisis despite an unprecedented number of licensed professionals in the state. OCN's ongoing research underscores the importance of a healthy workplace and work-life balance and employees feeling respected and appreciated. [Workplace embeddedness](#) has become even more critical since the COVID-19 pandemic. Huddlers also agreed there is widespread distrust in healthcare system leadership. Some organizations attempt to address these issues through open office hours and 1:1 meetings to create a dialogue between leadership and staff. The inability to provide safe patient care can also influence a nurse's decision to leave a position. Examples included increasingly high patient acuity, unrealistic workload expectations, and time-bound patient interactions. Finally, Huddlers agreed that systemic change is necessary rather than shaming employees for "not doing enough."

## Events & Happenings

**NWONL Learning Opportunity:** Join the Northwest Organization for Nurse Leaders (NWONL) for its upcoming training, "Nursing is Political," on October 23 at noon. This online training explores nurses as leaders, advocates, and legislators, as well as the importance of policy and politics and their impact on your organization, leadership, and, ultimately, clinical practice is essential. Attendees are eligible for 1.0 CE credit. [Learn more and register here.](#)

### Next Friday Huddle:

Friday, October 11, at 8:00 a.m.

[Register Here!](#)

### Find OCN Online:

[www.oregoncenterfornursing.org](http://www.oregoncenterfornursing.org)

