



## **COVID-19 UPDATE**

This last week has again been one of change and uncertainty. Now and as always, ONA does not and will not endorse any practice that puts you or your patients at risk and we continue to do everything possible to ensure you have the equipment you need to remain appropriately equipped and safe.

### **Emergency orders**

- The Ontario Government has extended all emergency orders until April 23, 2020.
- The following emergency orders pertaining to our work place have also been extended to April 23, 2020. It is expected they will be extended again.
  - Work deployment for health service providers
  - Work deployment for boards of health

### **Directive #5**

- On April 10 this was amended to include **all** health care workers.
- Point of care risk assessments (PCRA) are to be done before every patient interaction or encounter and the health and safety measures assessed as being necessary are to be used when providing care to each patient.

### **PPE supply management**

- TOH is evaluating N95 and PPE availability on a daily basis, including on unit stock.
- 1870+ is the most commonly used N95 respirator. In areas of high use, staff are being re-fit tested to another model to extend 1870+ availability.
- Re-fit testing is happening in ICU, Emergency and Respiratory Therapy.

- If you are re-fit tested to the alternate model please use that model so we can preserve the 1870+ inventory for those members of staff who have not been fit tested to the new model.
- COVID-19 patients are being cohorted so as to reduce the number of times PPE is changed between patients.
- Use of N95 and surgical masks can be extended to 4 and 8 hours respectively, however the mask must be changed if:
  - It is used for any AGMP
  - It becomes soiled or damaged or if it has been used for the maximum amount of time, whichever comes first.
  - There has been close contact with a patient who is co-infected with any other infectious disease where contact precautions are required.
- Some units continue to save masks.
  - This is a contingency plan only.
  - Research on safe decontamination and integrity maintenance continues.
  - ONA will not agree to the re-use of masks if there is any risk to the health and safety of you our members.

## **Scrubs**

The hospital is in the process of sourcing scrubs to be made available to those health care workers who are working with COVID-19 presumed, suspected or positive patients.

## **Reminder**

ONA Central is hosting a Town Hall on April 15, at 4:45 pm. You will receive a call, accept it and you will be connected. If you are unable to accept the call a voice mail will be left. Follow the instructions provided.

Please contact me or your site VP if you have any questions or concerns.

Stay safe and Stay well,

Rachel Muir RN

ONA Local 83 Bargaining Unit President and Local Coordinator