

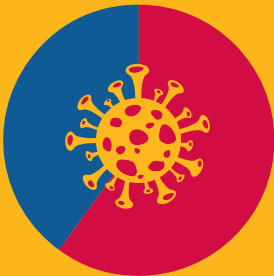
# The Covid Exposure Blame Game



Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, nurses and health care workers have called for employers and governments to follow the precautionary principle — that we shouldn't wait for proof of harm before implementing measures to protect health.

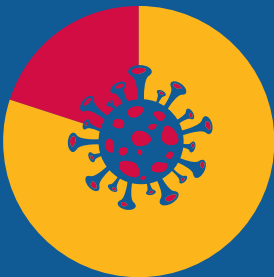
Over a year later, growing scientific research affirms the need for comprehensive infection control plans and optimal PPE to prevent transmission of Covid-19 within health care facilities. But employers continue to neglect basic infection control measures and, instead, are blaming nurses.

## NATIONAL NURSES UNITED'S COVID SURVEY OF NURSES SHOWS THAT HEALTH CARE EMPLOYERS DENY SCIENCE AND IGNORE BASIC INFECTION CONTROL »



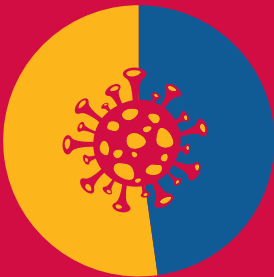
**ONLY 60% OF RNs who work in hospitals report that their facility has a dedicated Covid unit.**

**BUT DEDICATED COVID UNITS ARE ESSENTIAL TO COVID INFECTION CONTROL.**



**MORE THAN 80% OF RNs report they reuse at least one type of single-use PPE.**

**BUT OPTIMAL PPE IS ESSENTIAL TO COVID INFECTION CONTROL.**



**NEARLY HALF OF RNs reported that staffing has gotten worse recently.**

**BUT SAFE STAFFING IS ESSENTIAL TO COVID INFECTION CONTROL.**

**BOTTOMLINE » EMPLOYERS HAVE A LEGAL AND MORAL OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE A SAFE AND HEALTHFUL WORKPLACE TO EMPLOYEES.**

- » Optimal PPE, including at least an N95 respirator for every Covid patient encounter.
- » Safe spaces for meal and rest breaks.

Thousands of health care workers sickened by coronavirus, worsening crisis in hospitals

Jan 6, 2021

Los Angeles Times

Northeast Ohio health care workers getting COVID from community spread, Cleveland Clinic doctor says

300 Cleveland Clinic staff members out sick

Nov 09, 2020

NEWS 5 CLEVELAND

Minnesota study: Home, community more risky for health care providers than patients with COVID-19

Officials say study shows effectiveness of medical-grade protective gear.

Oct 30, 2020

StarTribune

## WHEN EMPLOYERS SAY STAFF INFECTIONS ONLY HAPPEN IN BREAK ROOMS AND THE COMMUNITY, THEY ARE BLAMING HEALTH CARE WORKERS.

The fact of the matter is that nurses and health care workers do not have the protections they need to care for Covid-19 patients safely.

### WHAT EMPLOYERS SAY (based on weak CDC guidance)

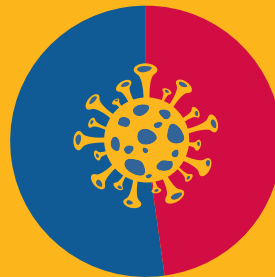
Health care workers should be excluded from work for 14 days if they have had prolonged close contact (15 min within 6 feet) with a confirmed Covid positive patient, *only if* the worker was not wearing:

- a respirator or facemask;
- eye protection if the Covid positive patient was not wearing face covering; or
- all recommended PPE (gown, gloves, eye protection, respirator) while performing an aerosol-generating procedure.

This definition of exposure goes against science.

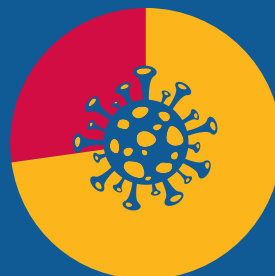
**BUT WE KNOW that 15 minutes and 6 feet are arbitrary.**

**BUT WE KNOW that a face mask is NOT adequate protection for Covid.**



**LESS THAN HALF OF RNs who work in hospitals report that all patients are screened for Covid.**

**BUT SCREENING ALL PATIENTS FOR COVID IS ESSENTIAL TO COVID INFECTION CONTROL.**



**MORE THAN 70% OF RNs report their employers do not inform them of exposures in a timely manner.**

**BUT CONTACT TRACING AND TESTING ARE ESSENTIAL TO COVID INFECTION CONTROL.**



For studies and more information, visit [nationalnursesunited.org/covid-19](https://nationalnursesunited.org/covid-19)

**#ProtectNurses.** All Our Lives Depend On It.

