

What nurses are demanding to protect health care workers, patients, and the public

Of employers, National Nurses United is asking the following:

- 1.** Employers shall implement plans and protocols in response to COVID-19 based on the precautionary principle, which holds that lacking scientific consensus that a proposed action, policy, or act is not harmful – particularly if that harm has the potential to be catastrophic – such action, policy, or act should not be implemented and the maximum safeguards should be pursued.
- 2.** Employers shall clearly communicate with all RNs/health care workers, including notifying nurses when there is a possible or confirmed COVID-19 case.
- 3.** Employers shall provide education and training for all RNs/health care workers, including on protective gear, donning and doffing, and all other protocols relating to COVID-19.
- 4.** Employers shall provide the highest level of protection, including functioning negative pressure rooms and personal protective equipment for nurses providing care to possible and confirmed COVID-19 cases. Employers must ensure negative pressure rooms remain functional at all times during use. Highest level of PPE must include PAPR, coveralls meeting ASTM (American Standard for Testing and Materials) standard, gloves, temporary scrubs, and other protections.
- 5.** Employers shall plan for surge of patients with possible or confirmed COVID-19, including plans to isolate, cohort, and to provide safe staffing.
- 6.** Employers shall conduct a thorough investigation after a COVID patient is identified to ensure all staff and individuals who were exposed are identified and notified. Any nurse/health care worker who is exposed to COVID-19 will be placed on precautionary leave for at least 14 days and will maintain pay and other benefits during the full length of that leave.

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What nurses are demanding to protect health care workers, patients, and the public

Of government, National Nurses United is asking the following:

- 1.** All registered nurses and other health care workers must receive the highest level of protection in their workplaces, as determined by the precautionary principle.
- 2.** The CDC must improve screening criteria and testing capacity to ensure prompt recognition of and response to COVID-19 cases.
- 3.** The Occupational Safety and Health Administration must promulgate an Emergency Temporary Standard to protect health care workers from emerging infectious diseases like COVID-19 as soon as possible.
- 4.** Congress and the administration must ensure that any vaccine or treatment for COVID-19 that is developed with U.S. taxpayer dollars is provided to the American public when needed for free.
- 5.** Congress must act immediately to pass an emergency spending package to fund the emergency response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

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