



JUNE 2020

# NUHW PULSE

FOUNTAIN VALLEY REGIONAL HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER

## A MESSAGE FROM THE NUHW STEWARDS AND BARGAINING TEAM

As the COVID-19 pandemic hit in the U.S. in March, we were in full-swing on negotiating our contract. The strongest way to negotiate is across the table from management, and that became impossible when physical and safety barriers were imposed.

Our immediate goal shifted to securing immediate economic improvements for members, with a plan to return to bargaining in January 2021 to finish what we started.

**Between now and then, we need to stay united and focus on achieving our goals.**

There will be no going back to “normal” until we have a vaccine for COVID-19. While our patient population may be larger or smaller some weeks, we may see surges at various points.

**This means we are at risk until FVRMC steps up to the plate and makes permanent changes to keep everyone safe.**

### We need permanent safety and security:

#### Safety in the “new normal”

Our hospital needs to prepare for a consistent stream of COVID-19 patients, as well as periodic surges.

Our hospital needs to resume routine and elective care in ways that do not jeopardize worker or patient safety

#### Protections for healthcare workers

Steps and protocols need to be taken to ensure an abundance of caution to protect workers.

#### Economic security and justice

Our hospital should be a responsible corporate citizen and provide a safety net for its workers.

Under the Federal Stimulus Package, people who worked for smaller companies received additional paid time and guaranteed paychecks. The Federal government assumed – wrongly – that a large corporation would take care of its employees.

*“The enormous mistake that FVRMC made when it shut down the East Tower and moved the COVID patients inside the main hospital put us at risk. Dozens of members were exposed and several became ill. COVID patients were in units with pediatric patients, “clean” patients, stacked three to a room without social distancing, PUI’s weren’t isolated, staff had to fight to get appropriate PPE, staff was not notified timely of exposure, and on and on. This cannot happen again.”*



– Evelyn Vieyra, Nursing Assistant

We need to hear from you about all the things you saw that were wrong, that put you, your coworkers, and patients at risk. We want to know what you think should be done to have permanent safety and security. Once we collect your ideas, we hope to work with management on these issues.

We will soon conduct a survey collect your ideas, which we hope to work with management to resolve. For now, please check out our COVID-19 resource center at [nuhw.org/COVID-19](https://nuhw.org/COVID-19).

## OC BOARD OF SUPERVISORS! PROTECT ORANGE COUNTY!

Following the death of three more COVID patients at FVRMC, Shop Steward Connie Montesano, lab tech, spoke at a June 16 press conference of the OC Board of Supervisors, urging California’s third-most populous county to adopt a universal mask policy.

“The reversal of the universal face mask policy puts all health care workers at an increased risk,” said Connie. “If we aren’t there to help you when you get sick, what do you

think will happen? Please reinstate the universal face mask policy” See TV coverage of the press conference at <https://tinyurl.com/yct5dp57>.

According to the California Department of Public Health, Orange County has the fourth largest number of positive cases in the state, with 9,163 reported, and the fourth largest number of deaths, with in 233 reported. We know from our own hospital as we’ve seen escalating and continued COVID patients.

Despite these statistics, the OC Board of Supervisors reversed their previous policy, ignoring scientific and medical experts and caving to political pressure.



### VICTORY!

#### RETRO PAY: CLASS ACTION GRIEVANCE FOR BACKPAY

Management failed to pay retroactivity on the PTO hours and missed meals during two pay periods: April 12 through April 25, and April 26 through May 9. Last Friday, June 19, we met with Human Resources and resolved this grievance. Management agreed to pay the missing hours. If you were affected by this, expect to get the RETRO PAY in the next pay period.

## TAKING OUR MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY!



Christina Rodriguez, NUHW RCP, and Dr. Hung Nguyen were featured speakers at a recent community forum on COVID-19 hosted Sergio Contreras, member of the

by Westminster City Council and candidate for the County Board of Supervisors, to educate the community about what they can do to reduce the spread of the novel

coronavirus in Orange County.

Christina told the audience, “I know some respiratory therapists who are not able to go home because they spend their days taking care of COVID patients. They are sleeping in hotels to protect themselves and their families — it’s important for you to be aware and protect yourself, because this could change your life and the entire dynamics of your family”

Stay informed! Join our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/groups/NUHWFV](https://www.facebook.com/groups/NUHWFV)

NUHW ORGANIZER: Luis Vega • (714) 822-9308 • [lvega@nuhw.org](mailto:lvega@nuhw.org)