

Accurate as of March 18, 2020, 10:00 AM

## **PATIENT CARE**

1. 12 patients are under investigation for COVID-19 infection.
  - Patients were tested for the virus, and are in isolation as hospital staff await the test results
  - The third floor of the East Tower of the hospital has been converted into a COVID-19 ward. The total number of rooms in the unit are 36, of which 4 are negative pressure rooms and 6 are private.
2. Employees and visitors are being screened for their temperature before being allowed to enter the hospital. However, there is a lack of objective screening standards: employees are being turned away at the door if they cough or sneeze, even if they don't have a temperature above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit. This is leading to further short staffing.
3. N95 masks in small sizes were out of stock. However, we understand they are being restocked. The hospital has 30 paper masks for respiratory therapists in storage and ready to deploy.
4. An outside screening tent has been set up on the hospital grounds to test patients who exhibit symptoms for the virus. Staff are performing X-rays in the tent.
5. There is a lack of appropriate signage on prospective COVID-19 patients' doors. The signs are supposed to prevent non-essential staff and all visitors from entering the room. However, the signs are not posted in Spanish or Vietnamese. We heard stories of family members and housekeeping workers entering in by accident.



## **WORKER ISSUES**

1. 164 caregivers, nearly 30% of the hospital's total workforce, are Per Diem employees who have no health care benefits through the Employer and also no paid sick leave or paid time off. Per Diem workers will not receive income if they contract the virus in the line of duty or in any other manner. ***NUHW asked the hospital to provide two weeks of paid time as an income replacement for Per Diem workers.***
2. 109 caregivers at the hospital have an extended sick leave bank. However, they cannot access these sick days until they have been sick at least seven days and have utilized their paid time off (which includes their vacation time, sick time, and time available if they are "flexed off" work during low patient census months). ***NUHW asked the hospital to waive the seven day rule for workers with extended sick leave.***

**CONTINUED ON BACK**

## WORKER ISSUES CONTINUED FROM FRONT

3. We are aware of 30 caregivers who have school-aged children, and there may be more. All Orange County public schools have been closed down for at least two weeks.  
*NUHW asked the hospital for flexible schedules for their employees with school-aged children.*
4. Workers at the hospital have limited paid time off.  
*NUHW asked the hospital to provide income security with no loss of income to any worker exposed to the virus or who becomes ill.*
5. *NUHW asked the hospital to test any worker who has been in contact with a COVID-19 patient.*

### THE HOSPITAL HAS NOT RESPONDED TO NUHW'S REQUESTS.

## IMPACT ON FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

1. We are the healthcare workers are on the frontlines of the coronavirus crisis.
2. NUHW members go into work ill-equipped by our employer Tenet Healthcare Corporation to protect ourselves and our families from viral exposure.
3. NUHW members are working short staffed.
4. NUHW members may face going without pay if exposed or ill due to the coronavirus.
5. The health and well-being of Orange County depends on our service and bravery in this time of crisis.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

It is imperative that you keep yourself safe. At this point, Fountain Valley management has not made commitments to provide income security in the event that you or your family become ill.

Make sure you wear PPE when entering rooms that are COVID-19-suspect or confirmed, as well as any other isolation rooms which require PPE.

Read your email each day: our Union will be sending regular updates.

Talk directly to your Shop Stewards and Bargaining Team with any questions.

Join Our Facebook page for up-to date-information: **[Facebook.com/groups/NUHWFV](https://www.facebook.com/groups/NUHWFV)**