



MAY 2020

NUHW PULSE

KINDRED HOSPITAL BREA

KINDRED BREA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TUESDAY, JUNE 16

The first call will be at 8 A.M. and the second call will be at 8 P.M. Details for the call will be emailed on Monday, June 15.

COVID-19 NUMBERS UPDATE

Seventeen patients and 27 employees at Kindred Brea have tested positive for COVID-19. Sadly, the virus also took the life one of our coworkers, Roda Vicuna, LVN.

COVID-19 UPDATES

WORKER ACTIONS HELP BRING ABOUT SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

We have come together in the past few weeks to raise our concerns to management in a constructive way. With the help of many members participating in collective activities such as sticker day, and committing to picket and to participate in a press conference, we were able to secure improvements to health and safety issues, including:

1. All members have been provided with N95 masks
2. All patients have been tested for COVID-19. Those who tested positive were placed in a special unit with higher safety measures.
3. The availability of PPE for all employees working outside and inside the COVID 19 unit has been brought up to appropriate levels.
4. We improved the COVID-19 differential: Now RNs, RTs, LVNs, and CNAs will receive \$ 8.00 per hour when they are assigned to care for at least one patient with COVID-19. Workers in other classificatino will receive \$6.00 per hour with a minimum of three hours' pay.
5. Management has committed to providing COVID-19 testing to all employees.
6. Management agreed to schedule conference calls every Thursday to address safety concerns in the facility.

HONORING RODA VICUNA, LVN - BELOVED HERO

We are heartbroken to report that NUHW lost its first member to COVID-19 on May 29, 2020.

Roda Vicuna LVN, was a loving and devoted caregiver to her patients at Kindred Brea Hospital. She was also a loving wife, mother, daughter, and sister, taken from us by COVID-19.

We, her small family of nurses and friends at Kindred Brea, want Roda's family and other loved

ones to know how much we will miss her. We send our love and thanks to her family for sharing a part of her short time with us. We send prayers to Roda's husband, her children, her parents, and her sisters. We share in your loss.

We have established a GoFundMe campaign to help Roda's family during this difficult time. Please consider donating if you are able to do so:

<https://gf.me/u/x6wmqk>

We send our deepest condolences to Roda's family. No healthcare worker should have to risk their life to care for their patients.



For more information, please contact NUHW Organizer Isacc Ramirez Perez at (626) 391-8224 or iramirezperez@nuhw.org.

COVID-19 UPDATES

HAVE YOU BEEN TESTED FOR COVID-19 YET?

Your Union leaders urge all members at Kindred Brea to get tested. If testing had been available since the initial two cases, we wouldn't have so many cases now.

Testing will help us maintain a safer workplace and help us protect our family, friends, and others with whom we may come into contact.

Right now, you can be tested for free through employer-provided testing at Kindred Brea. Contact Pam the infection control nurse to make an appointment. You can also access testing through your own healthcare provider.

Testing is also available through the Orange County Healthcare Agency. Call (888) 634-1123 or go to <https://coronavirus.egovoc.com> and click **COVID-19 Testing and Screening**.

NUHW/KINDRED BREA LABOR-MANAGEMENT MEETINGS

Since members pressed hospital management to agree to weekly labor-management meetings to address problems related to COVID-19, we have held two meetings and discussed:

1. Testing for all employees: Kindred Brea and NUWH encourage all members to be tested in the hospital, by your healthcare provider, or by a community agency.
2. N95 masks: We are working to ensure that Kindred Brea complies with regulations to ensure that employees use the correct size of N95. Any employee who wants to be fit-tested can immediately request it by contacting the respiratory department supervisor. Protect yourself and your family; get fit-tested as soon as possible.
3. COVID-19 differential for per diems working 12 hours a week: We asked management to lower the required number of hours for Per Diems to qualify for the COVID 19 differential to 12 hours per week. Management did not agree to our request. We will continue insisting on this issue. In the meantime, per diem employees must demand to receive hazard pay when assigned to the COVID-19 unit.
4. COVID-19 numbers: Management agreed to report the number of cases among employees and patients on a regular basis.

CONTACTING YOUR NUHW COVID 19 TASK FORCE

We must stay united and be prepared to take action during these difficult times. We ask all NUHW members to report concerns, suggestions, and other issues to any of the following members of the COVID-19 Task Force. See their contact information below.

Alexxis Steiman, RN: (714) 989-3044
Althea Dinet, LVN: (909) 518-9505
Lilliane Ives, LVN: (909) 762-5441
Ling Wang, RN: (909) 762-5441
Brenda Alexander RT: (951) 756-9983
Elias Hernandez, Monitor Tech: (714) 905-2072
Rosaura Kreis, EVS: (562) 319-3701
Marlene Pulido, Dietary: (562) 619-2609

ANNUAL WAGE INCREASE UPDATE

Members with at least six (6) months of service at Kindred Brea will receive an hourly wage increase on the first pay period following July 1, 2020.



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