

NUHW FACT SHEET

KINDRED HOSPITAL WESTMINSTER

Kindred Hospital – Westminster is a 109-bed for-profit hospital in Orange County, California, owned and operated by Kindred Healthcare (“Kindred”). As a long-term acute-care facility, the hospital cares for patients with complex medical conditions that require extended hospital stays. Of the 11 long-term care hospitals in California owned by Kindred, Westminster is the second-largest.

Kindred is headquartered in Louisville, Kentucky, and owns 75 long-term acute care hospitals across the United States, and had annual revenues of approximately \$3.2 billion. The company operates the only two long-term care hospitals in Orange County, in Brea and Westminster. In 2018, the company’s long-term care hospitals were acquired by two private-equity firms, TPG Capital and Welsh Carson.

The U.S. in the midst of a public health pandemic, and Orange County has the second-highest number of COVID-19 cases in California. But caregivers and patients at Westminster are NOT adequately protected from COVID-19 exposure.

As of July 21, 2020, **seven patients and 16 caregivers at Westminster have tested positive** for the coronavirus.

Patients infected with COVID-19 are housed among patients who have not been exposed, instead of being cared for in a dedicated ward.

Caregivers are assigned a mix of COVID-19-positive patients along with the general patient population, which increases the risk that non-infected patients will be exposed.

Caregivers are not given adequate personal protective equipment. Workers are supposed to be given N95 masks. Instead, they rely on surgical masks.

NUHW members at Kindred Westminster demand the hospital do the following:

- **Test patients and caregivers for COVID-19 twice a month**
- **Establish a separate COVID-19 wing for patients who test positive**
- **Provide N95 masks for all caregivers**
- **Assign caregivers who don’t have underlying medical conditions to suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients**
- **Agree to pay employees who miss work due to being quarantined for COVID-19**

NUHW represents 182 caregivers at the hospital, including Certified Nursing Assistants, Licensed Vocational Nurses, Monitor Technicians, Respiratory Care Practitioners, Respiratory Therapists, Cooks, and Environmental Services Aides. Almost 40 percent of these members have dedicated more than ten years of service to the hospital. Twenty workers have been caring for patients at Westminster for more than 20 years.