

COVID-19 HEALTHCARE WORKERS' BILL OF RIGHTS

1 PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

All healthcare workers have a right to appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). If healthcare facilities do not have enough PPE, they must work to secure an adequate supply. This includes demanding that local, state, and federal officials increase acquisition and production of PPE.

6 MENTAL HEALTH CARE

Healthcare workers are confronting intense pressure, stress, uncertainty, and trauma in the workplace as well as a high risk for infection. To help workers facing these conditions, healthcare facilities must provide access to high-quality mental healthcare services to employees at no cost.

2 TESTING FOR COVID-19

To reduce the spread of COVID-19 and ensure appropriate staffing levels, healthcare facilities must provide healthcare workers with guaranteed access to rapid, point-of-care testing whether they have COVID-19 symptoms or not.

7 TEMPORARY HOUSING

Healthcare facilities need to provide safe, high-quality nearby housing accommodations for healthcare workers who choose not to return home in order to limit exposure to their family members — including some who may be at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

3 SAFE WORK ENVIRONMENT

Healthcare facilities must protect workers and patients by requiring that all visitors and workers wear masks and adhere to social distancing measures, and ensuring that engineering controls, like ventilation systems, meet necessary standards for preventing the spread of COVID-19.

8 WORK FROM HOME

When it will not compromise patient care, healthcare workers should be allowed to work from home, and healthcare facilities should arrange for the equipment and technology needed to do so effectively. This includes mental health workers, who are needed now more than ever.

4 SAFE STAFFING

The influx of COVID-19 patients combined with the number of healthcare workers becoming sick creates a strain on staffing. Healthcare facilities must ensure staffing levels that keep healthcare workers and patients safe.

9 INPUT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Healthcare workers should have input in decisions on staffing, PPE, infection control protocols, surge planning, and any other changes that impact their work. And workers should never be disciplined for blowing the whistle on hospital failures.

5 PROPER TRAINING

Healthcare facilities must provide training on all COVID-19 protocols for the safe and effective execution of healthcare workers' duties. New training or refreshers should be immediately provided if protocols are changed or added.

10 CARE FOR CAREGIVERS

Healthcare workers need additional paid time off to care for themselves or their families, presumptive eligibility for workers compensation for COVID-19 illness, and childcare support to continue working during the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information on NUHW's COVID-19 policy recommendations, please visit

[NUHW.org/covid-19](https://nuhw.org/covid-19)