

Caring for Our Community During COVID-19

Take the survey!

It is important to have accurate and reliable information about our experience with COVID-19 as healthcare workers. As a union, we are taking a survey about our experience with the availability of personal protection equipment, as well as staffing, safety, training and sanitation practices.

Our goal is to identify employers and units where there are particular problems or concerns, as well as to identify places where best practices are in use. Aggregated, anonymized information may be made public, but your individual responses will be kept private.



Use the QR Code to take the survey

Our proposals:

1. The Medical Center pays caregivers placed on quarantine status with no loss of pay or paid time off.
2. Eight-hour timely notice in the event of exposure.
3. Communication to caregivers will be in multiple languages and in clear, uncomplicated phrasing in order to increase access to essential information.
4. The hospital will provide universal communication on the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) delivered during huddles, shift change or at the DMS Board, in addition to all electronic and posted communication.
5. All caregivers will have access, at a minimum, to fitted N-95 masks, gloves and goggles. Upon request gowns will be made available to caregivers. Additionally, the Medical Center will be enough PAPRs on each unit to respond to two or more codes simultaneously with a full staff in the room.
6. In order to ensure safety of our EVS caregivers, all rooms that do not have negative airflow, Environmental Services will wait a full two hours before entering the room to clean and disinfect. For those rooms with negative airflow, Environmental Services will wait one hour before entering the room.
7. In order to support caregivers amidst the challenges our community is experiencing due to the growing concern surrounding COVID-19, the employer will seek back-up child and elder care services to benefits-eligible (0.5-1.0 FTE) caregivers.
8. The Medical Center will pay both the employee and employer contribution for Washington Paid Family Medical Leave.

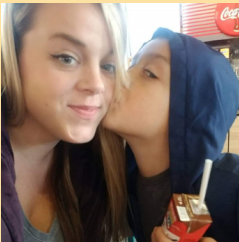
NEXT STEPS:

Our team is working to secure more dates to negotiate with the hospital this week. Talk to your delegate to find out more or how you can be involved.

As we work together to navigate the COVID-19 crisis our community faces, the health and safety of our patients and co-workers is top of mind. When we protect our frontline caregivers, we protect our healthcare system — and this will give us the resiliency we need to get through the crisis. In coalition with our WSNA nurse colleagues, we are calling on PeaceHealth administration to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in a way that ensures the safety of both us and our patients, while at the same time providing for those of us impacted financially.



“Our top priority is caring for our patients and our community as we work to contain the COVID-19 pandemic here in Bellingham. We are calling on the Medical Center administration to do its part by following CDC safety guidelines and providing adequate PPE for all caregivers. I am a caregiver who is currently battling with cancer, and I am actively receiving cancer treatment. Caregivers like myself, with compromised immune systems, are highly vulnerable. We asked the Medical Center to do its part and contribute to the Washington Paid Medical Leave and commit to no loss of medical benefits if we need to self-isolate per our provider.” **Amy Denniston, Respiratory Therapy**



“My co-workers and I are at the front lines of infection prevention and we are committed to keeping staff and patients safe through these difficult times. In order to be safe, we need access to the appropriate PPE and we need to take the appropriate precautions before disinfecting rooms. A key part of our proposals to hospital administration was that we wait a full two hours before entering non-negative airflow rooms and one hour for negative airflow rooms. In order to keep our patients and community safe, we need to keep ourselves safe.” **Heather Steele, Environmental Services**



“Every day there is new information regarding COVID-19. It’s more important than ever that we have clear communication from the hospital around protocols and PPE and that these communications are universal to all units and departments, and in clear language so that all caregivers can understand. We must come together as a team to care for our community and keep our patients safe in this difficult time.” **Hollie Harris, 4 South NAC**



“As caregivers working on the front lines of this pandemic, we need access to appropriate PPE and communication from the hospital on process and procedure to make sure that we are not only ensuring the safety of patients and community members, but of ourselves. We are committed to patients and our community and we need hospital administration to make the same commitment to us.” **CJ Sanborn, ED Tech**

COVID-19 Hotline

If you are a member of SEIU Healthcare 1199NW and want to report an incident at your facility related to COVID-19, have concerns about your safety in the workplace or questions about the impact of COVID-19 on your work, please call our COVID-19 member hotline: (866) 977-0247.

Additionally, you can speak with your delegate or your organizer.