



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Board of Nursing

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Oregon State Board of Nursing

Position Statement: COVID-19

All nurses in Oregon are licensed for patient care by the state. The State Public Health Department is charged with Oregon's response to this unprecedented event. This event has also resulted in confusing and conflicting information regarding transmission, healthcare worker precautions, high-risk categorization, etc. As a state agency, the Oregon State Board of Nursing follows state mandated procedures and will follow and hold nurses accountable to the recommendations published by the Oregon Health Authority Public Health Division.

Following World Health Organization (WHO) or Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations may be an organizational decision but not an individual practitioner decision if their organization has decided to follow Oregon Public Health recommendations. If Oregon Public Health determines that a WHO or CDC guideline is to be followed, then it also becomes a recommendation of Oregon Public Health

Nurses are reminded of their social contract with the people of Oregon to care for them at their time of vulnerability and to use scientific and evidenced based criteria for determining their own risk stratification and their ability to care safely for patients.

The Board has determined that nurses cannot refuse a patient care assignment because the organization is following OHA Public Health Division recommendations regarding PPE and other infection control practices rather than WHO or CDC guidelines.