



Oregon Public Health Association

Working together to make health happen

OPHA Nursing Section - A couple things

Thing one: Local Health Departments are increasing their capacity to accomplish COVID-19 contact tracing. If you are interested fill out the form at [Contact Tracing](#) or give your local health department a call.

Thing two: The OPHA Annual Conference Call for Abstracts is open. Please pass on the call, write your own abstract, and plan to attend the conference in October. Go to: [Call for Abstracts](#). The conference will be virtual, with many opportunities for presentations!

Thing three: Message from the Nursing Section Chair - Dianna Pickett:

Today, the entire planet is dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. Shocking numbers of people are sickening, suffering and tragically dying. The virus is scouring out a rift of anxiety and grief across our world. It has become starkly clear that our economy is dependent on the health of earth's people. The consequences of long-standing institutional structures and policy choices have caused disparities that are reflected in the lack of defenses and eroded resiliency for so many. It is a stunning public health emergency and nurses, regardless of specialty, are plunged into the fight against this deadly virus. Many of you are on the front lines working with hospitals, testing and contact tracing, and more. Others are behind the scenes, tracking and reporting vital data and collaborating on your community's response. Or you may be waiting to jump in where needed while sheltering at home, schooling your children, and protecting vulnerable family and friends. If you are retired, perhaps you have dusted off your sewing machine to make masks, are volunteering, and are interpreting information for the worried and curious. Everything has speeded up and changed. Public health is in everyone's mind. Public health nurses are key to our best offense against this threat.

Public health nurses have a professional and personal stake in our communities. Our homes, families and friends are being affected. We share the risks and grief with our neighbors. Nurses have the strength needed to see our people through this difficult time, but we also know it probably has not been easy for you, either. The OPHA Nursing Section leadership wants you to know that we see you and appreciate your contributions in the face of this sudden and devastating crisis. We wish you good health, satisfying work, time to rest, and stubborn optimism for the future. We are with you.

Nursing Section Plans for 2020

In Oregon we continue to stay at home and observe physical distancing guidelines in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It will not be business as usual for the Section this year. We chose to cancel our annual Public Health Leadership Luncheon and are considering how we might conduct our annual Section meeting and election of officers in October, if the OPHA Conference is offered virtually. One bright spot for us is that these unusual times have nudged us toward offering more professional support on-line that public health nurses can access from their own communities. A plan is in the works to post short informational videos on compelling public health topics on our web pages. Our regular Newsletter will keep you abreast of innovations as we respond to these new conditions.

We could use your help:

- Offer your ideas for topics that interest you for the videos.
- Let us know about someone who might agree to be interviewed about their work, a public health practice innovation or a program.
- Write a short article for the Newsletter.
- If you know something about simple video production and posting, help us solve problems, when they arise.
- Attend the open Section Executive Committee Meetings and share your ideas with us.
- Help organize on-line voting for the election of Section officers in the fall.
- Offer to run for Section Chair, Chair-elect, Secretary Treasurer, or Board Representative, as needed.

Think about how you might get more involved in the Section.

If you are not a current OPHA member, please consider joining or re-joining and participating in the Nursing Section. We welcome you!

Contact us at opha.nursing@gmail.com

Membership <https://opha.memberclicks.net/membership>

Nursing Section <https://opha.memberclicks.net/nursing-section-home>

Thing four: Ok. We already said it, but will do so again. Get your abstract submitted for the annual conference. Let's make this a memorable conference for nurses interested in public health!

Be Well.

Want to get more involved in your PHN Section? Contact us at: opha.nursing@gmail.com

(Tom Engle - newsletter editor, tsengle@frontier.com)