

December 7, 2020

LHSC RN Bargaining Unit ONA Members:

The outbreak of COVID-19 at London Health Sciences Centre is an unprecedented and distressful event.

On December 4, LHSC's senior management held a media conference to discuss the outbreak. ONA Local 100 members should know:

- The employer was very clear that there **is no one individual or situation** that is to blame for the outbreak.
- The employer has thoroughly investigated the alleged 'potluck' as local media reported. It has been investigated and found that there was no potluck and nurses are not to blame.
- COVID-19 is highly infectious and outbreaks are multi-factorial.

Nine months into this pandemic and we are still waiting for government and healthcare employers to acknowledge airborne transmission of COVID 19 and the role it plays. The province and employers have been totally unprepared, and have not applied the precautionary principle and all the lessons learned from SARS. Early on in this pandemic PPE was not readily accessible, and was being locked up, nurses were asked to reuse PPE, and with all the protocols the employer put in place that increased the risk of transmission to workers **and yet nurses showed up!**

As front-line nurses and health-care professionals, it is imperative now more than ever that we have each other's backs, and support each other through these very challenging times. We need to stay steadfast in protecting one another and our patients. LHSC is currently reporting a healthy PPE supply nurses need use Directive #5 (regarding N95s and point-of-care assessments) to have the highest level of PPE worn for their protection. No nurse working with a suspect and/or confirmed COVID 19 patient should have anything less. Make **sure** you ask for the correct PPE and this **will** not be denied by the employer. If you have any concerns please reach out to your ONA representative.

If you have any concerns, please contact me.



Ricki Dolsen
Interim Bargaining Unit President
Cell: 226-980-8495
email: rdolsen.ona@gmail.com