

KNA Newsletter

February, 2020

International Department

KNA launches Nationwide Campaign

Wear mask & Wash hands



Branch offices of Korean Nurses Association are conducting a nationwide campaign “Wear mask and wash hands” to prevent the spread of COVID-19. They distributed ‘The Preventative Guidelines for contagious disease’ and gave masks to citizens at stations with high influx of the population. They emphasized the importance of washing hands and wearing masks. Earlier in January, the Korean Nurses Association launched the campaign at Seoul station and Seoul express bus terminal respectively.

Since then, the branch offices throughout the country join in the relay from February. The Korean Nurses Association stated: “To prevent infection, it is very important to follow universal precaution, such as washing hands and wearing masks. Through this nationwide campaign, we will continue to promote the public to be aware of preventive measures and follow the guideline.”



Nurse recommended for the 4.15 general election of the Korean National Assembly

YONHAP Daily News

The People Party, led by Ahn Cheol-soo, revealed 25 candidates for the 4.15 General election. For the upcoming General Election, the People Party (Kukmin-Party) announced on March 22nd, their appointment of Choi Younsuk, Vice President and the head of the nursing department of Keimyung University Dongsan Hospital as the No.1 Candidate for the proportional representation. It is the first time that a nurse has been given No. 1 as the proportional representative. This shows that nurses make a vital contribution to tackling the public health challenges and are able to reflect current political realities.

The Dongsan Hospital in Daegu, where Choi belongs, has been designated as a base hospital for COVID-19 where she directed overall nursing tasks. In the midst of difficult situation with the influx of confirmed patients, Choi’s contribution with an outstanding leadership has been highly recognized. Referring to the candidate Younsuk Choi, the People Party explained that ‘As our party further emphasizes on the need to prioritize the health and safety of public, we find it is critical to place someone who can contribute to the development of practical solutions. Younsuk Choi, who truly reflected the value of the People party showing her dedication to fighting COVID-19 on frontline, uniting nurses with strong leadership was considered to be the best qualified candidate ready to run for the upcoming election.’ Also there are several other nurses nominated as regional candidates and proportional representation candidates from different parties for this coming election.

Recruiting nurses for sample collection at outdoor triage center in Daegu

The Korean Nurses Association has been actively recruiting nurses to volunteer in Daegu to prevent the spread of COVID-19. COVID-19 Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasures Headquarters (COVID-19 Central Headquarters, Director PARK Neug Hoo, Minister of Health and Welfare) announced on February 24th that they will recruit medical personnel to serve for the early diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19 in Daegu. The COVID-19 Central Headquarters is working on measures fervently to prevent community infection by expanding the screening to those with flu-like symptoms as well as the existing high-risk group. To begin with, the COVID-19 Central Headquarters announced that nurses, doctors, medical technologists, administrative and quarantine personnel will be recruited to be deployed at the outdoor triage centers. Accordingly, the Korean Nurses Association has actively promoted the recruitment nationwide to protect the health and life of the people as well as to fulfill their mission as medical professionals by containing the spread of COVID-19. Accordingly, the Korean Nurses Association has actively promoted the recruitment nationwide to protect the health and life of the people as well as to fulfill their mission as medical professionals by containing the spread of COVID-19.



KNA President SHIN Kyung Rim emphasized, “It is the spirit of Nightingale and the role of nurses to fulfill their professionalism and mission in times of national crisis when the health of people is at risk. Nurses have overcome the crisis at the frontline with the public whenever the nation went through the Korean War, and the Independence movement. We will also stick together to overcome COVID-19 with the people.”

COVID-19 WARRIORS in media

CHOSUNILBO Daily News

**“If someone must, I will do it.”
The Frontline: in the negative pressure rooms**



“I defended this place when the MERS broke out. The frontline is inside the negative pressure rooms.” Featured an interview article on LEE-Jin-soo, a nurse working in negative pressure isolation wards at Seoul National University Hospital was published in February by 12 the Chosun Ilbo newspaper. When the 11th confirmed patient was completely recovered and returned home in good health, LEE Jin-soo said, “I felt like my fatigue has been washed away.” He volunteered to work as an isolation unit nurse when MERS spread in the summer of 2015. “If someone has to do it, I wanted to be the one.” Since then, he has been working in the negative pressure isolation ward for five years. As per protocol, only the designated and trained medical professional with protective clothing can enter the negative pressure isolation rooms. A medical professional is responsible of all the task ranging from providing patient meals to cleaning the room. Every time he goes in, he has to put on all the required PPE such as a protective suit, a hat, overshoes, a mask, goggles and double gloves as per protocol. So, if she/he is not familiar, it takes about 15 minutes. He also spoke about the painful experience shared with colleagues in the isolation unit. During MERS, children of medical professionals were shunned because of the possible risk of infection. “I am risking my life for saving other people but feel helpless when I hear it from people dear to me.” He added, “I hope that the guidelines for social protection on these issues are clear.”

