

# KNA Newsletter

March, 2020

International Department

## COVID-19 WARRIORS in media

### DONGAILBO Daily News

**Can't eat, can't sleep, but we smile... We are nurses**

A nurse having a quick meal with rice cake, snacks and drinks (FIRST) in the midst of caring for the overflowing confirmed cases of COVID-19 continuing to increase across Daegu and Gyeongbuk Province. A nurse getting some rest in the hospital's funeral hall during her break from overwhelmed facilities (SECOND).



A nurse smiling despite of deep dents and sores in her skin due to the tightly fastened and prolonged use of masks (THIRD).

**Cheongdo is where I should be... New graduate nurses making remarkable activities**

One of new graduate nurses while waiting for her start date at the hospital mentioned "When I first heard about there is shortage of nursing workforce in Cheongdo, I instantly felt that it was a calling. I convinced my family as a person committed to be a nurse that I am responsible of looking after patients in need no matter where they are."

### KUKMINILBO Daily News

**Nurses fighting against COVID-19 and we will win this battle**

"We are requesting more staffing from other units but we are still running short. So, the nurses are continuously working regardless of their working days or days off. The nurses in charge of situation rooms work over 15 hours a day without a day off in the face of continuing workforce shortages and stay at the hospital not going home taking cautious measures to protect their family for being exposed to infection."



### KANGWONILBO Daily News

**Nurses: Hope in patients with COVID-19 and their family**

When entering into the isolation rooms, the frontline health care workers wear heavy PPE with double gloving and N-95 masks or PAPR for prolonged hours.

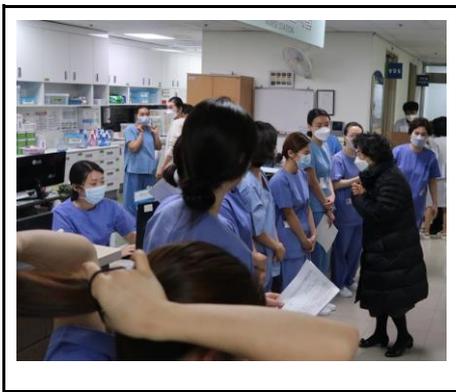
We need to be extra cautious specially when doffing PPE to reduce contamination. It is highly demanding physically to carry out all nursing and other tasks in PPE. Therefore, providing safe staffing level reflecting the evolving crisis is a must for the safety of both patients and nurses.



\*Source: KNA

## The Korean Nurses Association, pour all-out support for the COVID-19 frontline nurses

On March 6, President Shin of the Korean Nurses Association (KNA) visited Gyeongbuk Province, one of the most affected COVID-19 regions in South Korea. During the visit, she met with the nurses caring for COVID-19 patients and discussed the challenges they face.



\*Source:KNA

There is a dire need to prioritize frontline health workers' safety while responding to the COVID-19 outbreak, ensuring appropriate personal protection, supply of resources and facilitating work hours and allowing more break time for the current workforce.

In one facility, there was no designated negative pressure rooms or portable isolation chambers in place, creating a potential risk for the transmission of this virus. The KNA worked together with the government urgently and requested to send available portable isolation chambers to the facility. Although still more portable isolation chamber is needed, ten isolation chambers were installed for now. There is also a limited number of Powered Air-Purifying Respirators (PAPR), thermometers, and blood pressure monitor available to the sites.

Since there is not enough PPE on hand, nurses tend to work in the isolation rooms for three to four hours. Once the nurses go into the isolation rooms, they have to wear Level D PPE and N95 masks for three to four hours straight, carrying out their nursing tasks and other highly demanding physical tasks. One nurse reported, "Sometimes, when the PPE is ripped or torn while working in the isolation rooms, they need to be immediately replaced. When it happens, I am more worried to consume new PPE than to be afraid of being exposed to infection."

President Shin of the Korean Nurse Association added, "During our visit we discussed the issues and challenges faced by the nurses working on the frontline of this outbreak. Frontline health care workers especially nurses are at risk of coming into contact with confirmed cases since they are with the patient around the clock. We are able to communicate the challenges to the government and employers. The KNA will continue to support nurses around the country, working to care for people affected by the virus and protecting others."

### Counseling hotlines for nurses in the frontline

#### We must protect nurses to protect our nation

The Korean Nurses Association is working with medical institutions and relevant organizations nationwide for the treatment of COVID-19 patients as well as to contain the spread of the disease.

### 코로나19 담당 간호사 '상담지원' 안내

간호사의 건강이 안전해야 국민 건강도 지킬 수 있습니다.

대한간호협회는 전국 의료기관 및 관련기관에서 코로나19 치료와 확산 방지에 힘쓰고 있는 간호사들의 정서·심리적 스트레스를 완화하고 지지하기 위해 정신전문간호사로 구성된 전문상담팀에서 '전화상담 서비스'를 제공합니다.

상담전화 : 대한간호협회 02) 2206-1926

상담기간 : 2020년 3월 9일~4월 3일

상담시간 : 월~금 09:00~18:00

 **대한간호협회**  
Korean Nurses Association

\*Source:KNA

To support and to advocate for nurses working in the frontline, KNA has also set up mental health helpline composed of psychiatric nurses providing emotional and psychological support for nurses in the frontline

### Thousands of volunteer nurses have signed up to join their colleagues

There is a growing number of nurses volunteering to help collect samples for COVID-19 testing in Daegu and North Gyeonbuk Province at outdoor triage centers. According to the KNA Emergency Management Center for COVID-19, 347 and 163 applicants volunteered for "patient treatment" and "selective care center" respectively. Adding those who applied through the government COVID-19 Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasures Headquarters (COVID-19 Central Headquarters) a total of 1,297 nurses volunteered to help as of March 2<sup>nd</sup>.



\*Source:KNA

Applicants range from new graduate nurses to retired nurses. Meanwhile, the Korean Nurses Association has collaborated with the government for recruitment since March 1<sup>st</sup>.

KNA directly sends the list of volunteers after categorizing them by duty, to the COVID-19 Central Headquarters for assignment.

**President Moon praised nurses as 'Heroes who saved the lives of our people' On the World Health Day**

**ETNEWS**

**COVID-19 Together, we can overcome**

On the occasion of the World Health Day, President Moon Jae-In sent a message to praise and thank nurses for their unconditional dedication. "Today I visited the Quarantine center at Incheon airport. Recently the increase in confirmed cases is from those entering the country which comprises over half of the number reported to be infected. There are the dedicated medical professionals who work without being noticed at the Intensive Care Unit, designated centers, patients units and the community treatment centers.

They are the nurses. I felt sorry to see the photos of their face covered with bandages."



He added that "I would like to thank nurses who voluntarily join in the fight from their off duty vacation and retirement whom I was very much inspired." Nurses are the warriors wearing the personal protection equipment. Being exhausted and even with fears and danger of being infected themselves, they are the one who stay up with the patients until the very last moment. President Moon insisted that "Nurses are the silent heroes who are saving the lives of our people" "Their works are expressed merely as 'dedicated medical workers' not much highlighted as doctors but they should be recognized and rewarded.

President Moon stressed that "Today is the World Health Day under the theme 'Let us encourage nurses and midwives'. Please express your appreciation and recognition to our nurses and I hope this will promote their self-esteem. Our encouragement will make a better world.

**Campaign to nominate Marianne & Magaritha for Nobel Peace Prize in the Year of the Nurse**

**Honoring two Austrian Nurses whose spirit is engraved in the hearts of frontline nurses fighting for COVID-19 in Korea**

The Korean Nurses Association, as the Promotional Committee to recommend Marianne and Margarita for the Nobel Peace Prize, calls upon the global nursing community to join the campaign to nominate Marianne Stöger and Margaritha Pissarek for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2020, the Year of the Nurse and Midwife.

Despite the prevailing fear of infection, these two nurses came to a foreign land solely on their calling for mission leaving their home in their 20s. By demonstrating over 40 years of service and dedication for the Hansen's disease patients, they have become an example to many Koreans, especially nurses.



"Their spirit have been engraved in the hearts of Korean nurses today who willingly take upon their duty to care for COVID-19 patients in the frontline" said KNA President Shin Kyung Rim.

Isn't this year the best time to highlight the importance of nurses who give hope and courage in the most vulnerable times.

Please join our campaign to nominate these two nurses for the Nobel Peace Prize by signing the petition at <http://mm.kna.or.kr/>



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