



Registered Nurses Association of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut

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March 25, 2020

RE: Letter from RNANT/NU President, Jennifer Pearce

New stories from all around the world continue to portray nurses doing what they always do: step up to the challenge and meet the needs of their clients. Now that the coronavirus has reached Canada, attending work is scarier than ever. Hospitals across the country are taking action to prepare for the impact of COVID-19. Faced with the threat of coronavirus, nurses continue to be called to work while other professionals are being told to stay home.

To minimize the risk of exposure when providing client care, ask yourself the following questions:

- Are there appropriate policies, procedures, and guidelines to provide safe care, available in my workplace?
- Do I have the knowledge, and skills to perform the assignment that I have been given?
- Is the appropriate personal protective equipment available to keep me safe and minimize the risk of exposure?

We are all accountable for making decisions that are in the best interests of our clients and to protect them from harm. Despite working remotely, the staff at RNANT/NU are responding quickly to the concerns of the members.

To better prepare yourself:

- Ensure you apply correct hand-washing principles
- Participate in education opportunities and practice drills that may be offered at your workplace - Use credible sources, and follow best practice guidelines. One such resource is the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC).
- Follow organizational policies and procedures

Be conscious of your personal health and well-being. Take time for self-care whenever possible. As we enter what some may describe as “a period of uncertainty”, remember we are all in this together. I have never been more proud to be a Registered Nurse.

Respectfully;
Jennifer