

# COVID-19 CRISIS



## Protect Our Health Care Workers and Our Patients

As frontline health care workers, **we, the RNs of Chino Valley Medical Center-Prime**, are concerned about the COVID-19 pandemic, and how we can protect ourselves and our patients in the days and weeks ahead.

**We are calling on the hospital administrators of Chino Valley to immediately implement the following:**

1. **Provide access to personal protective equipment (PPE) for direct patient care.** PPE is our first line of defense against COVID-19. All staff involved in direct patient care must have access to all necessary PPE.
2. **Cancel all but essential elective surgeries at Chino Valley.** California's hospital CEOs have pledged to take immediate action on the severe shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE). This hospital should join suit and cancel unnecessary procedures to conserve PPE and ensure that nurses and healthcare professionals who are in direct contact with COVID-19 positive patients have the protection they need.
3. **Provide employee access to COVID-19 testing.** Any health care professional involved in patient care should have guaranteed access to testing for the virus, regardless of symptoms.
4. **Show absolute transparency about the availability of personal protective equipment (PPE).** In times of great demand and short supply, the hospital must continue to communicate the levels of PPE to health care workers. The hospital should also allow health care professionals to use PPE from home if the hospital cannot ensure adequate equipment.
5. **Give frontline caregivers a voice in decisions.** The hospital must give frontline caregivers access to information and a voice in critical decisions, such as PPE protocols, reconfiguring space, modifications to practices that limit exposure, and staffing selection on COVID-19 units.
6. **Prepare adequately for a surge in COVID-19 cases through specialized units, expansion and cross-training.** We need to develop specialized areas to treat COVID-19 patients. We must use elective procedure areas or other spaces to eliminate overcrowding. And we need to provide full support to staff assigned to unfamiliar areas, and dedicated training on best practices for COVID-19 care.
7. **Share childcare and other quality of life resources.** The hospital should provide access to a pool of childcare providers in lieu of city or county resources for health care and other essential workers. Hospitals must also recognize the risk health care professionals present to their family members. Hospitals should protect the health care workers who they require to work in at-risk areas with secure alternative housing, showers and other arrangements.
8. **Make sure RNs have access to accrued paid sick leave and prohibit retaliation against those who take it.** Workers must feel safe to stay home if their illness threatens the public's safety.