

DCNA

District of Columbia
Nurses Association

Good Afternoon DCNA members,

It truly inspires our Union, The District of Columbia Nurses Association (DCNA) to know that we are a united force during the Covid-19 Pandemic! We know that as nurses and health care professionals we share a common mission and are all bound by the same fundamental convictions: to heal the sick and injured, to fiercely advocate for the well-being of our students, our schools, our communities, and our patients as Community Health Nurses, Acute Care Nurses, health care professionals and Nursing Leaders.

We also know that while we may not agree on everything, we are all committed to the idea that self-preservation is a basic human right. During this unprecedented time we are faced with Covid-19, a virus that has infected nearly 9 million and killed over 250,000 people across the United States regardless of race, religion, creed, sex, and social class/status because it does not discriminate. We know we are living in a time where we are under pressure and forced to work in unhealthy environments, where health systems are compromising care due to political influence, and people are fearful of job loss and dying. This must not hinder our advocating for our schools, our children, our communities, and patients. We have the power to create and change our situation with Children's School Services, the Department of Health, and local hospitals. By joining with our sisters and brothers to speak in a collective voice, DCNA advocates for the right to accommodations that guarantee those with underlying health conditions are not to be exposed to COVID-19 involving direct patient care, that assigned work sites are properly sanitized and to ensure adherence to the Department of Health's Safety First Space Design, Facility Readiness, Health and Safety Routine, and Covid-19 Testing and Response Protocols. Personal Protective Equipment for nurses working in schools with our children, Health Isolation Rooms, Plexiglas Table-Top Dividers, HVAC Enhancements throughout the District of Columbia Public Schools/Charter Schools to all are necessary to reduce any airborne concentrations of COVID-19 and related transmission risks in every school. We know that we need a plethora of cleaning supplies recommended by the Centers for Disease Control. Nurses who are exposed to COVID-19 should be immediately quarantined for 14 days with paid administrative leave.

Let us spend this time together strategizing our strengths and applying the knowledge received regarding this virus opposed to fearful tactics. Every decision we make at this current time is individualized and will be respected. To our members who are cautious due to underlying medical conditions we lift them up in prayer while we continue to render care to the students who return to school on November 9, 2020. When we truly work in solidarity as nurses and health care professionals, we earn a seat at the table in making decisions, creating laws that are beneficial to both the union and those whom we unselfishly advocate for at any given time. There is nothing we cannot achieve.

In solidarity,

Katrena Clark, BSN, RN President