A Message From Dean Tagliareni

Nurses have always answered the call to serve their country and communities during times of crisis. We know that clear communication, collaboration, resilience, and innovation are key to navigating the challenges of effectively responding to COVID-19. With this understanding, the School of Nursing has already been answering the call to provide nursing care from our Partners HealthCare colleagues.

Early in the crisis, we responded to a call from MGH asking our students in the second, third, and fourth semesters to volunteer to be Patient Care Assistants (PCAs). Over 75 students answered the call and are providing needed support services.

MGH requested assistance from our RN faculty and Advanced Practice (AP) students to meet two emerging needs: staff for the Partners Call Center and for the role of Infection Steward at MGH. Both faculty and AP students responded to the call.

Additionally, our Advanced Practice students are actively providing telehealth services to the Boston community’s most vulnerable populations. Working collaboratively with the interprofessional teams in several satellite health care centers, they are reaching out to marginalized patient populations to assess their emerging needs and mobilize support services.

MGH also asked SON faculty who are experts in critical care to provide workshops to their ambulatory care nurses who are being deployed to acute, critical areas in the hospital.

Over the past few weeks, more than 60 of our nursing students have been providing supportive nursing care at Boston Hope. Our current final-semester students are being recruited to work as graduate nurses. Continuing students are contributing through faculty-led clinical experiences and as PCAs. We are so proud of the School of Nursing’s role in providing essential nursing care to the Boston community.

Board Chair to Direct Medical Services for Boston Hope

MGH Institute Board Chair Jeanette Ives Erickson, DNP ’11, is directing medical services for Boston Hope, the 1,000-bed field hospital that serves as an overflow for patients recovering from COVID-19. Half of the beds are for post-acute patients, while the other half are for unsheltered homeless individuals with COVID-19 who do not require hospitalization.

Nursing Students Help Out at Boston Hope and Around Greater Boston

Students in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program (pictured left) are working at Boston Hope as part of their Transition to Nursing Practice course. The students were accompanied by faculty Mary Keady and Christine Marmen. Through clinical work or volunteering as RNs or PCAs, more than 325 students in the School of Nursing are supporting COVID-19 care at MGH, Boston Hope, the Assembly Row Call Center, Chelsea Quality Inn, and Spaulding Cambridge.
Alumna Involved with Mass. COVID-19 Community Tracing Collaborative

School of Nursing alumna Sheila Davis, DNP '08, MSN '97, is among the health care leaders involved with the Massachusetts COVID-19 Community Tracing Collaborative, designed to flatten the COVID-19 curve to more rapidly reduce the number of cases in Massachusetts.

The nonprofit Partners In Health, of which Dr. Davis is CEO, will coordinate closely with the MA COVID-19 Command Center, Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority, and Massachusetts Department of Public Health to support Governor Charles Baker’s efforts by training and deploying hundreds of contact tracers, who will call people that have been in close contact with confirmed COVID-19 patients.

COVID-19 Questions Answered, One Call at a Time

Dr. Raquel Reynolds, an assistant professor of nursing, is working at the Partners COVID-19 Nurse Triage Call Center twice a week. The center has incoming calls from Partners HealthCare’s patients, ambulatory practice centers, employees, and clinicians seeking general advice.

“One of my friends said I am ‘air traffic control,’ sending patients to the right path. I like that analogy,” she said. “I feel like I’m contributing and serving the public. It is a perfect blend of my adult health and public health knowledge and experience.”

Student Emergency Fund Created

The COVID-19 virus outbreak has impacted IHP students. Their part-time jobs, which assist them with their living (and sometimes tuition) expenses, have disappeared. The Office of Development, working in concert with the Office of Financial Aid, has established the IHP Student COVID Emergency Fund to offer students quick assistance in this time of need. Administered through the Office of Financial Aid, the IHP will do what it can to support our students who find themselves without the necessary resources during this period of uncertainty. Please donate.

Sustained Engagement with Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota

Nursing students at MGH Institute of Health Professions don’t just learn about providing health care. Through their clinical placements and scholarly projects, they also learn about how providing health care can change the world.

For Grace Riley, MSN ’20, this lesson started with her father. He always told Riley and her brother about Native American communities.

“Your history books don’t teach you what actually happened,” Riley remembers her father saying.

As an IHP nurse practitioner student, Riley was wary of programs that might be “medical tourism.” What drew her to IHP’s clinical rotation on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota was that she learned the tribe was welcoming of students and interested in a long-term, sustained relationship.
MGH School of Nursing alumna May Chin (left, with her husband Tom) has seen nursing education evolve from hospital-based apprenticeships into a discipline that requires academic education together with practical experience. Ruth Sleeper, to whom Chin dedicated the MGH Institute’s Ruth Sleeper Nursing Center for Clinical Education and Wellness, was a leader in innovative health care and oversaw this transformation while she was the director of both the MGH School of Nursing and MGH Nursing Services. Chin shares an excerpt of her presentation to nursing graduates in 2019 detailing how changes first started at MGH by Sleeper and others took hold worldwide leading to the nursing profession we know today.

A Message From our Alumni Director

Dear IHP alum,

2020 marks the International Year of the Nurse and Midwife, which seems a fitting tribute for this history-making year in our world. It is with such heartfelt gratitude that I celebrate you, our IHP nurses and midwives, as you work on the front lines, lead teams, do research, teach the next generation, and advocate on behalf of your profession. Each of you is a leader in your own right in the communities in which you work. The IHP could not be prouder to call you an alum.

Read full message from Katie Mulcahy, Director of Alumni Relations