

Managing and protecting healthcare workers during the pandemic

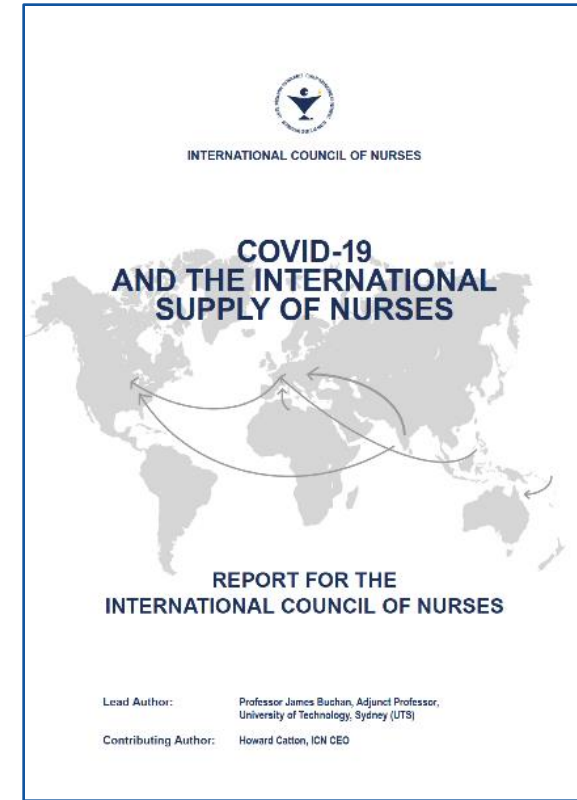
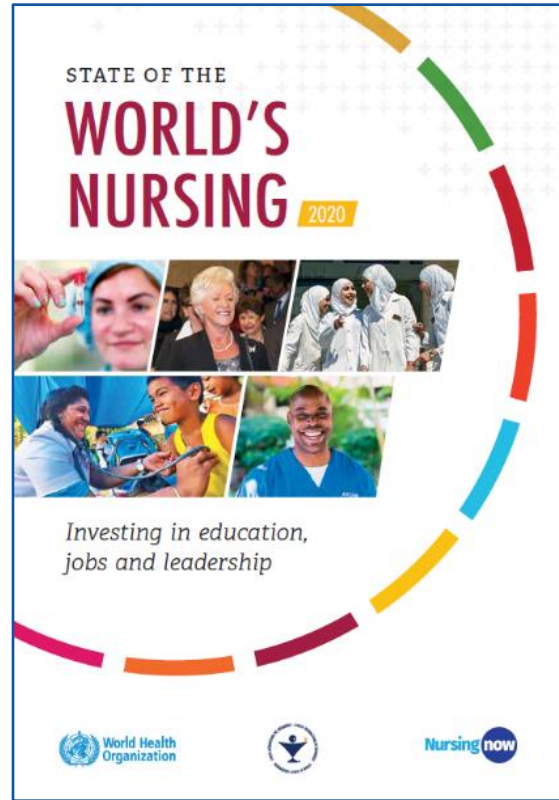
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#IHFCOVID19Forum



Investment in nursing: education, jobs and leadership

Keeping our healthcare workforce safe

ICN Call to Action

COVID-19



1 Urgently prioritise ready access to sufficient quantity of high-quality and appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for nurses and other healthcare workers

Governments must ensure that production of such equipment is rapidly expanded to meet the demands of this pandemic and optimise supply chains for the rapid distribution of such materials. Manufacturers and businesses that are capable of assisting should step forward and rapidly scale up production or re-tool manufacturing lines to develop medical products (such as PPE).

Using their professional judgement, within the context of national/international evidence-based guidelines, nurses are best placed to select the appropriate PPE required, based on their assessment of the situation in which they are providing care. The application of practices and precautions should include a point of care risk assessment by the healthcare worker.

2 Ensure all nurses have appropriate evidence-based infection prevention and control training and the latest COVID-19-specific guidance and training

All healthcare workers must have access to infection prevention and control (IPC) training which should include application of the systematic, comprehensive approach of the hierarchy of controls. This includes the use of engineering controls, which remove or reduce hazards or place a barrier between the worker and the hazard; administrative controls, which include protocols and policies; and PPE.

Nurses must be kept informed of new and emerging COVID-19 specific guidance and advances/changes in policy/procedures as new information emerges on this virus. This must be communicated to nurses in an appropriate and timely manner.

Working in a pandemic may pose ethical challenges and nurses should be provided with ethical guidelines and procedural values frameworks to help guide decision-making.

3 Protect the health and wellbeing of nurses and other healthcare workers

Nurses are the largest group of frontline health professionals in the battle against COVID-19: their safety and wellbeing should be a priority for governments and healthcare organisations. Strategies must be developed and implemented to reduce the physical and psychosocial burden on nurses.

Governments should provide access to mental health and counselling resources. Employers must monitor and mitigate fatigue by ensuring appropriate respite between shifts and maintaining scheduled breaks while on shift.

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INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES

Protecting nurses from
COVID-19 a top priority:
A survey of ICN's
national nursing associations

FINAL, 14 September 2020



Capitalising on nursing leadership and expertise



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