

1. Telehealth services on the rise

Recent studies by the American Hospital Association on the use of telehealth nursing services have shown that 76% of patients prioritize access to care over the need for human interactions with their health care providers and 70% of patients are comfortable communicating with their health care providers via text, e-mail, or video, in lieu of seeing them in person. This trend toward remote and immediate access is becoming more prevalent in the industry and telehealth nursing positions are becoming more well-known and necessary in the care continuum.

According to the [American Telemedicine Association](#), 50% of healthcare services might be provided by telehealth within the next five years, helping to balance the need for those 1.1 million new RNs. Providing guidance and support to patients is the main role of nurses; telehealth has already proven that it improves patient access, ultimately contributing to successful healthcare and reduced stress for nurses in the current shortage.

2. Travel Nursing

As demand for medical care rises and the nursing shortage continues to impact hospitals and other facilities, the need for travel nurses [in all specialties](#) will continue to increase throughout the country. These travel nurse jobs offer a variety of benefits, including higher salaries, housing stipends, travel expense reimbursement and opportunities to experience new places and people.

For instance, a [HealthLeaders report from June, 2019](#) pointed out that the use of travel nurses had increased by 7% compared to the year before, with more than 1 in 10 hospitals using at least two dozen of the traveling professionals to help meet their patient care obligations.

3. PPE limitations

Sept 1 the American Nurses Association (ANA) [released new findings from a nationwide COVID-19 survey](#) that indicate personal protective equipment (PPE) shortages persist and re-use practices for single-use PPE are on the rise, despite a lack of standard practices and evidence of safety.

More than 21,000 U.S. nurses working across many health care settings responded to ANA's latest survey.

According to the new findings, 42% of nurses say they are still experiencing widespread or intermittent PPE shortages.

Findings on PPE re-use and decontamination showed little improvement.

Over half of nurses (+15% from May) report that they are re-using single-use PPE, like N95 masks, for five or more days and 68% say reuse is required by their facility's policy.

The decontamination of N95 masks is a practice that 38% of nurses say continues. In accordance with the CDC, ANA does not support the use of decontamination methods as a standard practice.

4. Mental Health: Fears, anxieties and concerns will arise- SUPPORT will continue to be needed. (Burnout, etc)

Encourage you to go into our archive to listen to our 2 part series with Dr. Steve Wengel Feb 2020 to hear more about burnout

Healthcare market research and consulting company PRC recently announced the results of its National Nursing Engagement Report. The report was based on survey findings from over 2,000 healthcare partners and revealed key data about nurses in the workforce today, as well as what the future will hold for nurses and how hospital administrators can help support nurses going forward.

The Buzz on Nurse Burnout

One of the main focuses of the study was to examine how many nurses in the workplace today report feeling burned out. According to the report, 15.6% of all nurses reported feelings of burnout, with the percentage rising to 41% of “unengaged” nurses. What’s really interesting as well, is that 50% of nurses who reported feeling burned out also reported that they had no plans to leave their organization—pointing to the importance of supporting and meeting nurses where they are at in the workforce.

The report explained that unengaged nurses are nurses who,

- May not be part of a team with their colleagues,
- Have diminished morale,
- Feel emotionally checked out from their work, which also ultimately affects their patient care.