

UENWS



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March 11th, 2020

Statement from National Nurses United Regarding COVID-19 Testing for the House Committee on Oversight and Reform

National Nurses United represents more than 155,000 registered nurses and other healthcare workers across the United States. In recent weeks, our union has been made aware of multiple circumstances in which health care workers who have been exposed to COVID-19 infection have not received COVID-19 tests despite requests for testing. In some situations, the requests for testing have been made by other clinicians and by the local or state public health departments. There have been far too many cases where exposed health care workers have been refused testing for this to be considered a "misunderstanding". Further, members of our union across the country have reported countless cases in which testing has been refused to patients when clinicians have recommended it. It is essential that the CDC and local and state health departments immediately use and expand testing capacity and ensure that all patients and workers who require tests receive them when needed.

Registered Nurses are ready and willing to provide the care that patients with COVID-19 infection need, but they require strong protections in order to do so safely. While preventing exposure is the most important measure that must be taken immediately in health care facilities across the country, if exposure does occur, it is critical that nurses are tested for COVID-19 infection in order to protect the health and safety of the nurse, their patients, and our communities.