

TO: Pamela DeLise  
FROM: Sherri Dayton & Jessica Harris  
DATE: 3/13/2020  
SUBJECT: Postponing Negotiations

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Pam:

The nurses at Backus and their union are committed to collaborating with the hospital on how to best accomplish our mutual goal: ensuring healthcare workers have the tools and resources to care for patients safely and effectively during this public health emergency.

As you know, the current collective bargaining agreement is set to expire May 16, 2020. Nurses were very excited to achieve safe staffing and improved working conditions in a new contract. But in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the union's bargaining team decided that in the interest of patient safety, the parties should postpone negotiations and extend the existing contract.

The union therefore requests that the hospital agree to the following:

1. The parties will postpone negotiations and extend the current contract through June 30, 2020;
2. The parties will reassess the situation in thirty days to determine whether the pandemic necessitates an additional extension;
3. When bargaining commences, the negotiations will – consistent with past practice – be done at the hospital and open to any bargaining unit member who wishes to attend;
4. The hospital will continue to communicate and collaborate with the union to minimize the risks posed by COVID-19 to patients, nurses, and other healthcare workers.

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