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## Rush News

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3

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### PPE Resource Team Helps Keep Staff Safe and Morale Up



As Rush University Medical Center celebrates National Nurses Week, this annual recognition of nurses is more important than ever. Our nurses have made truly heroic efforts to help Rush respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. They have worked extra hours, pioneered new approaches and ensured patients with COVID-19 are receiving the life-saving care they need.

One group of nurses that deserve recognition and thanks is the PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) Resource Team, who

play a vital role in the safety of staff who provide care for patients with COVID-19. (Some of the team's more than 50 members are shown in the photo at left.)

This team is comprised of registered nurses from the neonatal intensive care unit, operating room, pediatric intensive care unit, post-anesthesia care unit and 9 Kellogg, who since mid-March have assumed the extra role of assisting with PPE training and support.

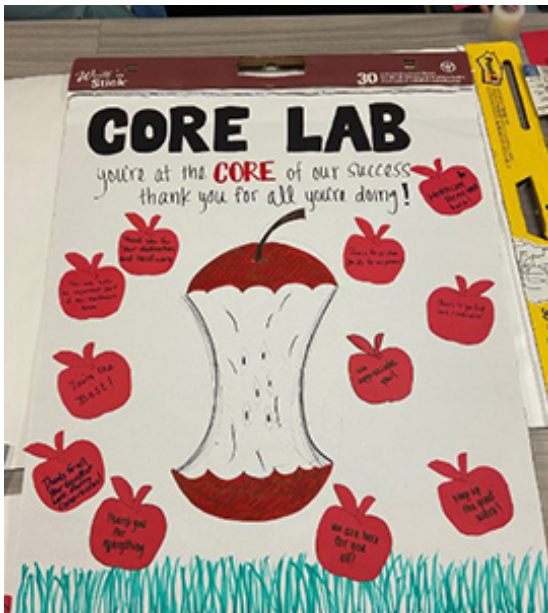
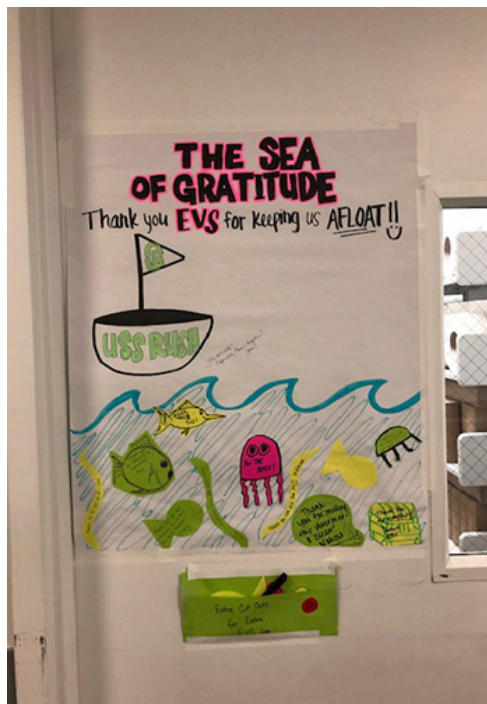
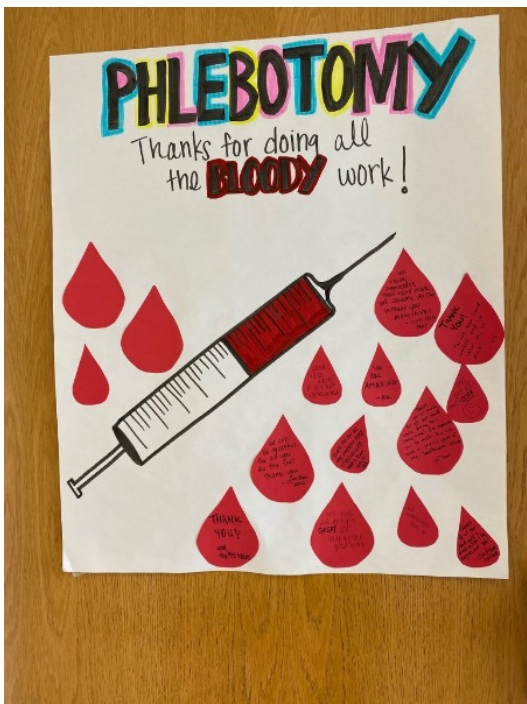
Initially, the group was formed so that they could help train others on proper PPE practices, demonstrating the protocol for putting on and removing PPE to lower the risk of contamination. They since have taken on a new set of responsibilities, which includes auditing the amount of PPE available, creating a process with supply chain for ordering PPE and keeping morale up by continuously expressing gratitude for all of the teams they are working with.

“The PPE Resource Team is highly motivated and self-directed,” says Melissa Browning, DNP, director of the Magnet Program at Rush. “They are passionate about the safety of the staff and patients at Rush. Their work has been pivotal during this time. Proper PPE protocols and supplies are life-saving measures.”

The PPE Resource Team has been making sure that the gratitude shared with health care workers during COVID-19 is also shared with the other teams that are essential to hospital operations. They created posters to hang on the units that allowed staff to write personal messages thanking the environmental services team, supply chain and lab personnel for all of their hard work and support. (You can see some of them at left and at the bottom of this page.)

“The team is dedicated to boosting the morale of all of the employees they work with,” says Janet Stifter, PhD, RN, CPHQ, associate vice president of professional practice nurses. “Everyone’s putting in extra work during COVID-19, and this group of RNs has made sure that worker safety and recognition remain among our top priorities.”

"We are so grateful for this extraordinary group of RNs that have worked so hard the past two months to make sure that the staff caring for COVID-19 patients is protected and supported," Browning says.



3 | Like 1

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[Rosa Oliveros](#) 5/13/2020 9:09 AM  
Thank you all!!!!!!! Team Work!

### RESOURCES

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*Rush is an academic health system comprising Rush University Medical Center, Rush Copley Medical Center and Rush Oak Park Hospital.*

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