

# NURSES' WEEK

## Covid is Airborne | PSW regulation threat

**Centres for Disease Control and World Health Organization change guidance and agree: Covid is Airborne**

The CDC updated guidance May 7 on Covid-19 transmission to recognize aerosol transmission is a primary route of transmission of the virus.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/sars-cov-2-transmission.html>

The World Health Organization changed its guidance on April 30: [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): How is it transmitted?](#)

Ontario still refuses to recognize that Covid-19 is airborne.



Burlington Hospital Local President and RPN Jacqui Curtis

## OCHU RPN Poll of 2,600 Paints a Grim Picture

32% of RPNs sick from Covid-19 caught at work were not paid for the absence.

Workloads are up 81% in the last year

Violence at work is up 70% during Covid-19

51% are coping poorly

29% consider leaving nursing

83% say pay increases instead of the real wage cuts they face from the Ford government would help them stay

[https://www.cp24.com/news/registered-practical-nurses-struggling-with-pandemic-stress-workload-poll-1.5420230 ...](https://www.cp24.com/news/registered-practical-nurses-struggling-with-pandemic-stress-workload-poll-1.5420230...)



## Nurses' Week and PSW Day materials are available now!

Pins for Registered Practical Nurses and Lanyard Cards for Personal Support Workers have been sent to all local unions for distribution during Nurses' Week and for PSW Day.

Please contact your local union for your pin and/or lanyard card.

Nursing Week and PSW Day posters have also been provided for all union bulletin boards.

## PSW Regulation Threat

The Ontario government has introduced legislation that will deny personal support workers access to the legal rights that nurses and others enjoy when facing discipline or the loss of their license. The Ontario Council of Hospital Unions-CUPE and CUPE Ontario will present on May 15 to the Committee of the Ontario Legislature that is taking submission on this bill.

Nurses have the right to appear before an independent legal body, to call witnesses and subpoena evidence and decisions on their cases may be appealed to the courts. None of these rights would apply to PSW's under the scheme proposed by the Conservative government.



CUPE Local 57 at Guelph General Hospital Celebrates Nursing Week