



**Press Release**  
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## **Willapa Harbor Hospital Celebrates the Work of Local Nurses**

*National Nurses Week is observed May 6-12, 2020.*

SOUTH BEND, Wash. (April 27, 2020) – Whether you’re visiting your primary care provider, find yourself in an emergency room, or are admitted to the hospital, more than 3 million nursing professionals in the United States are the heart of healthcare in almost every aspect. Celebrating the incredible work of nurses at home in Pacific County, and across the nation, Willapa Harbor Hospital is taking part in National Nurses Week, which is observed May 6-12.

In the fight against the coronavirus pandemic, nurses are among the frontline health professionals caring for patients. Their tireless work is even more important, often serving as a lifeline for patients hospitalized due to COVID-19.

According to Matthew Kempton, CEO of Willapa Harbor Hospital, the extended scope of services nurses provide, at all of the health system’s facilities, make them one of the most valuable team members at the hospital.

“Nurses provide essential care and support across our entire organization,” Kempton says. “From the doctor’s office to hospital room, and everywhere in between, our nursing professionals are truly on the frontline of healthcare and are often among the first healthcare workers you’ll encounter when visiting almost any medical setting.”

National Nurses Week is rooted in the work of the profession’s most notable icon, Florence Nightingale. Often referred to as the “lady with the lamp,” Nightingale made her reputation during the Crimean War when she led a group of 38 nurses on the battleground.

Throughout her journey, Nightingale provided much-needed services to the badly wounded British troops. As night fell, she continued her mission, lighting the way with her famous lamp.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has designated 2020 “The Year of the Nurse”. The week-long celebration begins on May 6 each year, the anniversary of Nightingale’s arrival in Crimea, and ends on her birthday, May 12. In 1974 President Nixon declared these dates as National Nurses Week.

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The important role nurses play in healthcare is one of the reasons why the World Health Assembly has designated 2020 the International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife.

There are upwards of 30 different types of nurses in the healthcare industry.

“Having the privilege of working with our nursing team here at Willapa Harbor Hospital, I see each day the passion that each of our nursing professionals truly have,” says Chelsea MacIntyre, a registered nurse and interim chief nursing officer at Willapa Harbor Hospital. “During this most unusual time in our community, and across the world for that matter, I am filled with gratitude for all of our team as we work in unison to deliver an enhanced level of patient care. I see it... and our patients feel it.”

### **About Willapa Harbor Hospital**

Founded in 1954, Willapa Harbor Hospital serves the healthcare needs of north Pacific County residents. The hospital offers a wealth of medical services, including in-patient care, a Level V 24-hour trauma center and advanced radiology services (including CT, MRIs, and mammograms), an outpatient lab, physical therapy, social services, minor surgical services, patient education and more. Pacific Family Health Center is a medical clinic that is also operated by Willapa Harbor Hospital. For more information, please visit [www.willapaharborhospital.com](http://www.willapaharborhospital.com).

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