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## Celebrating healthcare heroes during National Nursing Week and a worldwide pandemic

Our healthcare workers on the front lines are displaying tremendous leadership, commitment, courage and flexibility, as they continue to provide compassionate care at a challenging time.

May 11–17, 2020, is National Nursing Week. It's a perfect opportunity this year to recognize and celebrate the contributions of RVH nurses and their colleagues—physicians, pharmacists, physiotherapists, medical imaging technologists, laboratory staff, respiratory therapists, recreation, dietary, housekeeping, materials management, maintenance, and all others — who have gone 'above and beyond' during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I would like to thank all of our nurses as well as staff and physicians they work with during this special week of celebrating nursing knowledge, compassion and courage... through COVID-19 and always. Our nurses are unique souls who may pass thru your life for a short time but make an impact for an eternity, always going above and beyond the call of duty for our patients," shares Chris Ferguson, RVH Chief Nursing Executive.

In spite of their fears of becoming ill themselves or spreading the virus to their families and loved ones, they continue to serve those who need care as well as their coworkers by:

- redeploying from regular roles to areas where they are most needed
- volunteering to work at Long-Term Care (LTC) facilities if the need arises
- performing new/extra duties, e.g., hand hygiene audits, FIT testing for N95 masks
- adapting to ever-changing COVID-19 guidelines and processes (e.g., proper PPE, mask collection)
- arriving early to be screened before each shift
- training new staff who were brought on board to help deal with COVID-19
- practising physical distancing

"It is no surprise that the RVH team has risen to the occasion of COVID, once again demonstrating some of our hospital's values which include quality, safety and wellbeing, teamwork and leadership," says Julia Boudreau, Senior Vice President.

To our nurses, physicians, allied health care workers, and support services staff, we say a sincere THANK YOU!



