



♥ A Union of Nurses &
Health Professionals

September 2026



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Healthcare Corporations' Focus on Consolidation Hurts Rural Access to Care ... Again

University Hospitals has announced that it will cease providing cancer care services* at the Seidman Cancer Center at UH Geneva on November 13, 2026, forcing cancer patients from Ashtabula County and neighboring communities to travel an additional 30 to 60 minutes each way to seek treatment at UH's TriPoint Medical Center in Lake County.

This is, unfortunately, yet another corporate consolidation that prioritizes profits over patients and makes accessing high-quality healthcare services even more challenging for Ohioans who live outside major metropolitan areas. Last year, University Hospitals moved all cancer services from its Conneaut location to Geneva; those patients will now need to travel even further to seek care at UH TriPoint.

Earlier this year, OhioHealth closed the maternity unit at Grady Memorial Hospital in Delaware County, leaving Ohio's fastest-growing county without inpatient maternity services and worsening the maternal health crisis in neighboring, more rural counties, one of which (Morrow) was already classified by the March of Dimes as a maternal healthcare desert.

Northeast Ohio has also lost labor and delivery services, with Salem Regional Medical Center closing Columbiana County's last labor and delivery unit in 2018 and Ashtabula Regional Medical Center closing Ashtabula County's last labor and delivery unit in 2020. Ashtabula County is Ohio's largest county geographically, so its residents face especially longer travel times and distances when healthcare services are moved.

Healthcare is a right, and every single Ohioan deserves access to high-quality, local, affordable services. The corporate number-crunching driving too many decisions about Ohio's healthcare system is leaving far too many people, especially those in rural areas, without reasonable access to lifesaving care.

It is time for decisions about Ohio's healthcare system to be driven by those of us who actually deliver healthcare services, not by corporate executives who prioritize profit over patients.

*The Seidman Cancer Center name will be removed from the facility after Nov. 13 and all cancer care services will be moved to TriPoint, but the UH Geneva facility will remain open to provide supportive care infusions for its patients.

An advertisement for a WGU scholarship. It features a woman in a blue medical uniform with a stethoscope. Text on the left says "UP TO \$3,000 TO HELP YOU GET BACK TO SCHOOL". The WGU logo is at the bottom left, and a "LEARN MORE" button is at the bottom right.

**UP TO \$3,000
TO HELP YOU
GET BACK
TO SCHOOL**

WGU [LEARN MORE](#)

LIMITED TIME: Eligible students can apply for a \$3,000 Back to School Scholarship

Going back to school can seem overwhelming, but WGU's affordable, online model helps make it a smarter choice. Whether you're looking to enter the healthcare field or take the next step in your career, you'll gain the skills, knowledge, and certification you need to succeed.



[Click here](#) to learn more or scan the QR code.

Having trouble with the code? Visit <https://n.hnlnk.co/s/khZmcjCc>

Please Show Your Support for Cancer Treatment Services at UH Geneva

It is imperative that University Hospitals and other healthcare corporations understand that consolidation does not better serve their patients or communities.

Please take a moment to [sign a petition](#) asking University Hospitals to continue to provide cancer treatment services at UH Geneva.

**SAVE
CANCER CARE
AT
UH GENEVA**



Geneva Nurses Association

ONA 
A Union of Nurses & Health Professionals

Back to School with WGU

SPONSORED

Go back to school with WGU to earn your bachelor's or master's degree in healthcare on a flexible schedule! Finish sooner, and gain an employer-recognized degree that can help advance your career.

Our low, flat-rate tuition makes school more affordable than ever. Plus, for a limited time, our \$3,000 Back-to-School Scholarship can help set you up for success each term.

Below are listed some of our most popular programs that nurses like you are getting right now.

Bachelors of Science in Nursing (RN-BSN)



An online BSN degree program for registered nurses (RNs) seeking the added theoretical depth, employability, and respect that a bachelor's degree brings:

- **Time:** The program is designed to be completed in 1 year.
- **Tuition:** \$5,325 per 6-month term.
- **Courses:** 23 total courses in this program.
- **Transfers:** Students can transfer up to 90 credits.

Skills for your résumé that you will learn in this program:

- Healthcare Policy and Economics
- Information Technology in Nursing Practice
- Anatomy and Physiology
- Applied Healthcare Statistics

Bachelors of Science in Psychology

An online psychology program for students who want to make a difference in their life, and the lives of others.

- **Time:** 95% of students finish similar programs in less than 4 years.
- **Tuition:** \$4,210 per 6-month term.
- **Courses:** 34 total courses in this program.

Skills for your résumé included in this program:

- Social psychology
- Consumer psychology
- Adult psychology
- Mental health awareness
- Psychopathology

Masters of Science in Nursing – Leadership and Management

For registered nurses with a bachelor's degree who are ready for additional career opportunities.

- **Time:** 61% of grads finish within 23 months
- **Tuition:** \$5,035 per 6-month term
- **Courses:** 15 total courses in this program

This program is ideal for current RNs who have a BSN and are ready for the next step in their education.

Skills for your résumé you will learn in this program:

- Quality Outcomes in a Culture of Value-Based Nursing Care
- Nursing Leadership and Management
- Advanced Pathopharmacological Foundations
- Informatics for Transforming Nursing Care

Master of Healthcare Administration

A master's focused on managing comprehensive, value-based care, directly in line with innovations in health and healthcare.

- **Time:** 60% of grads finish within 21 months.
- **Tuition:** \$4,995 per 6-month term.
- **Courses:** 12 total courses in this program.

Skills for your résumé that you will learn in this program:

- Collaborative Leadership
- Healthcare Models and Systems
- Healthcare Financial Management
- Enterprise Risk Management
- Healthcare Information Technology

Your rich experience in a health-related field can mean more when you bring a master's level of understanding to the problems that organizations need to solve.

Online, Accredited, Respected – WGU

So, what are you waiting for? At WGU's Leavitt School of Health, you can earn an accredited bachelor's or master's degree on your schedule. With 24/7 access to our online programs, a degree from WGU can fit into even the busiest schedules.

Buy the notebooks, sharpen the pencils, and get ready to change your life with a degree from WGU.

References

<https://www.wgu.edu/online-nursing-health-degrees.html>

<https://www.wgu.edu/lp/health/lead/back-to-school.html>



To learn more scan the QR code to the left.

Having trouble with the code? Visit <https://n.hnlnk.co/s/khZmcjCc>

Legislative Update

Share Your Staffing Stories!

The Ohio legislature is in recess until after the November general election. The time between the election and the end of the calendar year, known as the lame-duck session, is often hectic and unpredictable.

Any legislation that has been introduced during this two-year session must be passed before the end of the year or it will need to be reintroduced and start over at the beginning of the legislative process next year. As a result, legislators work hard to push through their legislative priorities, and entire bills are sometimes added to other legislation as amendments, to take advantage of bills further along in the process.

The Ohio Nurses Association has prioritized three safe staffing bills:

[House Bill 521](#), sponsored by Rep. Lett (Columbus) and Rep. Cockley (Columbus), is known as the Ohio Nurse Workforce and Safe Patient Act. HB 521 would establish enforceable minimum nurse-to-patient staffing standards in Ohio hospitals, while also investing in workforce recruitment and retention through initiatives such as a nursing student loan-to-grant program. The legislation is built around the core principle that understaffing is not only a workforce shortage issue, but also a patient safety issue.

[House Bill 535](#), sponsored by Rep. Lorenz (Powell), and [Senate Bill 373](#), sponsored by Sen. Blessing (Colerain

Township) and Sen. Antonio (Lakewood), would strengthen hospital staffing committees and accountability. These bills take a complementary approach to HB 521, by strengthening hospital staffing committees and ensuring direct-care nurses have meaningful authority in staffing plan development. The legislation would strengthen transparency, accountability, and oversight to ensure that staffing plans are consistently implemented at the unit level.

All three bills are still in their original committees (i.e. the House Bills are in House Committees and the Senate Bills are in Senate Committees), so it is unlikely they will move through the remainder of the legislative process before December 31. But stranger things certainly have happened during a lame-duck session!

Whether the safe staffing legislation moves this year or is reintroduced next year, legislators need to hear from nurses and health professionals about the importance of safe staffing. What is staffing like at your facility? Are you concerned about workplace violence? What do you need to provide the level of healthcare your patients need? What do your patients need to be able to access high-quality, local healthcare services?

How can you share your stories with your state legislators?

- This time leading up to the election is a great time to engage with your state representatives and state senators about important healthcare issues, as candidates will be visiting local fairs, parades, and festivals.
- You can find your state representative and senator [here](#), then call or email their office.
- You can share your story with ONA [here](#), and ONA can use the information you provide when talking with state legislators and providing testimony on bills.

Speak up, share your stories, and let state legislators know about what's really happening in healthcare settings and how they can help!

Ask Nurse Jesse

LPN License Renewal

Ask Nurse Jesse is the Ohio Nurses Foundation's free question-and-answer resource, where nurses can submit questions about nursing practice, licensure, education, and other topics. While every question submitted is reviewed and answered, sometimes we notice a question topic coming up repeatedly. When that happens, we may choose to share the question and answer publicly so that other nurses can benefit from the information, too.

Ask Nurse JESSE



*The following FAQs address some of the most common questions we receive about continuing education (CE) requirements for **Ohio LPN license renewal**.*

I am an LPN and I need to renew my license. How do I know what CE I need?

LPNs have the following requirements in Ohio-

- Total CE Hours Required: 24 contact hours for licensure renewal
- Category A Requirement: At least 1 of the 24 contact hours must be Category A

OAC 4723-14-03 <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/rule-4723-14-03>

Ohio Board of Nursing <https://nursing.ohio.gov/education-and-practice/education/continuing-education/ce-requirements-for-renewal>

How do I know if a CE course will be accepted by OBN for my LPN renewal?

The Ohio Board of Nursing accepts many different approval or accreditation types for nursing CE. They can all be found in OAC 4723-14-05.

<https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/rule-4723-14-05>

Am I only allowed 1 hour of Category A for my LPN renewal?

The requirement is a minimum of 1 hour of Category A. There is no limit on how many hours of the total 24 are Category A.

When does my CE have to be completed for LPN renewal?

For the 2026 LPN renewal, LPNs have until October 31, 2026 to complete the required 24 contact hours of CE. However, for all future renewals, the CE must be completed by June 30 of the even numbered year. For example, the next LPN renewal is in 2028. All CE must be completed by June 30, 2028.

See "Reporting Period" in OAC 4723-14-01 <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/rule-4723-14-01>

Can I complete all of my Ohio LPN CE online?

Yes, an LPN may choose to complete all of the required contact hours online. There is no requirement that any of the CE be live or in-person. LPNs should choose CE opportunities that are the most meaningful for their professional development.

Where can I find online CE courses?

The Ohio Nurses Association offers Category A and other CE courses online at ce.ohnurses.org, including some free courses, which can help you reach the 24-hour total needed.

You can submit questions to *Ask Nurse Jesse* [here](#)!



Is nursing education the next step in your career?

Transform lives with a 100% online Doctor of Nursing Education degree from The Ohio State University. Choose between Academic Nursing Education or the Nursing Professional Development (NPD) track to customize your program to match your career goals. Connect with your Enrollment Advisor today.



[Click here](#) to learn more or scan the QR code.

Having trouble with the code? Visit <https://n.hnlnk.co/s/mv7THSNV>

2026 General Election

Make a Plan to Vote!

Policy decisions made at every level of government directly affect the future of healthcare in Ohio, shaping working conditions, patient safety, and access to care. This year's general election is your opportunity as nurses and health professionals to meaningfully influence those policy decisions.

On Tuesday, November 3, 2026, all of Ohio's statewide constitutional offices, one U.S. Senate seat, all Congressional seats, and all State House and Senate seats will be on the ballot.

Spend a few minutes now to make sure you're ready to vote on November 3:

First, check your voter registration status [here](#).

Need to register to vote or update your voter registration information? You can do that online [here](#).

You must be registered to vote by Monday, October 5 in order to vote in the November 3 general election.

Early in-person voting begins Tuesday, October 6. Click [here](#) to find the 2026 Ohio Voting Schedule and link to your county board of elections for details.

Polls will be open from 6:30am - 7:30pm on Tuesday, November 3. You can find your polling location [here](#).





Be Part Of A Different Health Care System With Army Medicine

The Army Nurse Corps provides unmatched care to military members, families, and retirees worldwide, while also supporting humanitarian missions, and natural disasters in one of five specialties: Critical Care, Mental Health, Perioperative, Emergency.



[Click here](#) to learn more or scan the QR code.

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Graff & McGovern, LPA

The Ohio nursing license defense attorneys at Graff & McGovern have decades of collective experience helping nurses to keep their licenses and save their careers. Contact us today at 614-228-5800.



[Click here](#) to learn more or scan the QR code.

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Nursing in the News

[‘I’ll just have to go further’: Patients brace for longer commutes as Geneva Cancer Center closes](#)

[As new behavioral health crisis centers open across Ohio, some face challenges in welcoming patients](#)

[Ohioans at foodbanks often must choose to buy food or medicine, according to survey of visitors](#)

[Inside the 538,000 Nursing Jobs With No Patient Care](#)

[From coffee shops to hospitals, workers look to unionize Northeast Ohio workplaces](#)

[Ohio State nurses push to keep employee incentive program](#)

[Columbus launches Nurse Health Care Navigation Line](#)

[More rural hospital closures would mean long drives for pregnant women seeking obstetric care](#)

Resources

Affordability

Temporary Reduction in Student Loan Interest Rate

In June, the U.S. Department of Education announced that federal student loan borrowers who enroll in autopay will receive a 1% interest rate reduction from July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2028.

Borrowers must enroll in autopay by September 30, 2026 to be eligible. Those already enrolled in autopay should have their rates automatically reduced by their loan servicer.

You can find additional information, including instructions on how to enroll in autopay, in the Department's [announcement](#).



Fight for Affordability

The Fight for Affordability campaign is rooted in a simple, powerful truth: workers deserve to thrive. Workers deserve to be able to care for their families without being bled dry by price gouging, junk fees, surprise or unfair medical bills and predatory corporate practices. Workers deserve access to quality healthcare without surprise bills and workers deserve to retire with dignity. Fight for Affordability.

AFT's Fight for Affordability Campaign

Earlier this year, AFT (American Federation of Teachers, the national union that the Ohio Nurses Association is part of) launched its [Fight for Affordability](#) campaign. The campaign website offers a library of how-to videos and resources for those struggling financially.

ONA members can access the AFT members-only Affordability resources.



Build Your Skills as a Nurse Preceptor—Join the Nurse Preceptor Education Program

Strengthen your clinical teaching skills through Mass General Brigham's nationally recognized Nurse Preceptor Education Program. Complete self-paced modules and join two virtual half-day workshops Oct. 28–29. Open to nurses nationwide. Group discounts available.



[Click here](#) to learn more or scan the QR code.

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Support the Ohio Nurses Foundation



The Ohio Nurses Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide funding to advance nursing as a learned profession through education, research, and scholarship.

Founded in 2002, ONF has awarded more than \$125,000 in scholarships and grants to Ohio students, nurses, and researchers.

You can support the Ohio Nurses Foundation by [making a donation](#) or by purchasing SUPPORT NURSING Ohio license plates for your vehicles.

To purchase a specialized plate, go to [the Ohio BMV website](#), choose organizational plates, and click Ohio Nurses Association.

Thank you for helping us support current and future nurses across Ohio!

[Get Your Plate Here](#)

Caring For Your Mental Health

In healthcare, you give so much of yourself: long hours, emotional moments, and the weight that isn't always visible. Stress, exhaustion, and burnout are real, but you don't have to face them alone.

A small act can make a big difference. A quick message, a genuine check-in, or a simple “I’m here for you” can lift someone’s day more than you know.

Need someone to talk to?

Call or text 988 to reach the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, available 24/7, free, and confidential.

ONA members can also access AFT's [counseling](#) and [trauma](#) services.

Remember, caring for yourself is just as important as caring for others.

Your wellbeing matters.



Malpractice Insurance

The coverage you need.
The rates you deserve.

[Learn More →](#)



Click the image above or scan the QR code to learn more.

Having trouble with the code? Visit <https://n.hnlnk.co/s/ucJYnbM5>

Stay Connected



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[Bluesky](#)

[X](#)



YOU CARE FOR EVERYONE ELSE. WE CARE FOR YOU.
IT'S TIME FOR CHANGE. LET'S SHAPE THE FUTURE OF HEALTHCARE TOGETHER!

<https://ohnurses.org/members/>

Notices

OHIO NURSE NEWS & UPDATES

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