NM Healthcare
What is Really Happening?
Healthcare Workers Speak Out

Not What it Seems

New Mexicans are being told that vaccine mandates are necessary to stop a COVID epidemic in New Mexico. Frontline workers share a different story, as **thousands of NM healthcare staff oppose mandatory vaccination.** (*Quotes are anonymous for protection of the workers.*)

"...mandates to vaccinate healthcare workers have driven many out of the industry. As a charge nurse in a busy emergency department, I have received numerous on-the-spot resignations from nurses and healthcare workers who refused to work under such mandates... If the nursing shortage is so dire, how can we allow ourselves to behave in a way that disenfranchises so many that they leave...?" RN from Presbyterian Hospital in Albuquerque

1) INFORMATION ABOUT AVAILABLE BEDS AND WORKERS IS SKEWED

"The ER is short staffed and most nights running a 23-bed department with only 3-4 nurses when it should be at least 7 nurses. There have already been 2 sentinel events [patient safety events that result in serious harm or death], in the ER recently due ot lack of staff, that Joint Commission is investigating.

Med/surg and telemetry floors are so short staffed they are unable to use all their beds. ICU is so short staffed it often has to work with a 3:1 nurse to patient ratio when normally the ratio is 2:1." Healthcare worker from a Las Cruces hospital
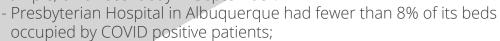
- Clearly, there IS a NM healthcare staffing shortage, now estimated at over 6,000 nurses plus thousands of other clinical/medical staff. This shortage is being pushed to a crisis by driving out of service healthcare workers who oppose vaccine mandates.

- The picture of hospital bed shortages presented to the public is misleading. Many beds have been taken out of use due to staffing shortages. Meanwhile, some hospitals are not full, let alone overwhelmed. The statistics the public sees about capacity shortages are based on the percentage of beds that are occupied compared to the number of beds hospitals are currently using, not compared to the total beds they have.

2) NM HOSPITALS ARE NOT OVERRUN WITH COVID PATIENTS

"Many of the patients with a positive test do not have signs or symptoms of the virus and were simply discovered on routine COVID testing."   *UNMH Adult Critical Care Respiratory Therapist*

- Only a small percentage of the patients in NM hospitals are COVID positive. For example, on a recent day in September:
  - Presbyterian Hospital in Albuquerque had fewer than 8% of its beds occupied by COVID positive patients;
  - UNMH in Albuquerque had 37 COVID positive patients out of 576 full beds;
  - Mountain View Regional Hospital in Las Cruces had 15 COVID positive patients out of 163 total beds.

- Many hospital patients who test postiive for COVID and therefore are being called COVID patients actually have no symptoms, and are in the hospital for other reasons.

- Additionally, NM nurses are reporting that patients who are COVID positive are being brought in from other states and Mexico, which increases NM numbers.

3) THERE IS NO PROOF OF A "PANDEMIC OF THE UNVACCINATED"

"We are seeing a lot of people come in with COVID symptoms and a positive COVID test who tell us they are vaccinated." *NM Healthcare Worker*

- NM Healthcare workers are reporting that 50-75% of the patients they work with who are symptomatic for COVID-19 chose to share that they were vaccinated.

- Healthcare workers also report they don't see how the hospital system could document that 95% of COVID patients are unvaccinated since vaccination status is not available unless patients choose to disclose it, due to HIPAA.

" *Uphold our rights to bodily autonomy, without forced vaccination or testing. We will continue to protect our patients, your organizations, and our community the same way we have for the last 20 months.*

Stand by us the way we have stood by you in the hardest time in our careers."

Another RN from Presbyterian Healthcare Services

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**More detail
is available**