

Dear Colleagues:

What I am asking of you—

I deliberately postponed reaching out to you (metaphorically) because the last thing any of us needed in these past few weeks was another email! We have been bombarded with emails from every business we interact with and groups behind the scenes telling us the same message about concern for our health and that of their employees. Our educational institutions have essentially shut down and our health care services are stretched beyond what we would normally consider reasonable. This was not the Year of the Nurse and Midwife I had envisioned!

Amidst all of that, nurses—wherever we are—are rising to the occasion. Thank you to all of the educators who quickly transitioned to an online format. In some cases, that was like drinking from a fire hose because some programs have been very much brick and mortar focused. Thanks to our own Dr. Susan Forneris, [NLN Center for Innovation in Education Excellence](#) for a quick [webinar](#) related to how we are creatively addressing our transition. Although she conducted that webinar from the office, the NLN staff are generally all operating from their homes. This transition has been impressive. The [website](#) is updated regularly, we are responding to requests, and we are advocating for our colleagues in practice so that they remain safe.

You might ask, so what do you want from me? I invite you to keep a journal, write a letter to your future self, identify key people in your life who make a difference, develop a statement of gratitude (for some of us this may be hard to do right now) and create your signature message to others (mine is: be safe). The reason I am asking you to do this is simple. Reducing our thoughts to writing can be cathartic and we are creating our own historical perspective. Reminding ourselves who the special people are in our lives and being able to identify something for which we are grateful can help us feel we are only physically isolated, not necessarily socially isolated.

I know I (and the people I affect) were scrambling to make changes to planned events and commitments; and as this semester winds down for those of us in formal academic programs, I am challenged to think how to create a meaningful experience for students next semester in a course that is very application focused. As many messages say: we are all in this together.

Thank you for your commitment to educating nurses at all levels of education and for supporting each other in our creativity. Thank you for serving as a role model of what solid health practices look like and for helping your neighbors, friends, families, and colleagues.

We are all in this together and right now our focus is on the “in our face” needs. I am confident we can count on all of our members to begin to think of the next steps as we transition to a new norm. As I identified our current learning in an editorial for a publication I edit, we are “in-real-time” learning. In other words, we are all learning as we are doing. When we are over the crisis phase, we will all be wiser and hopefully even more caring.

Please feel free to reach out to us! We are here to serve. My best to each of you.

Be safe!



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NLN President



**A LETTER FROM
PATRICIA YODER-WISE,
NLN PRESIDENT**
