



## **SPU MANILA RESPONSE TO THE QUARANTINE**

In response to the General Community Guidelines and the manpower needs of the university, the administration has issued the following work policies:

### **TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY OF ST. PAUL UNIVERSITY MANILA**

Dear lay co-workers,  
Greetings of Peace!

As you all know, Metro Manila has been on General Community Quarantine (GCQ) since August 19, 2020. Under GCQ, skeletal workforce in schools is now permitted. At this time, we need employees to be in school because we are beginning a new school year and enrollment is still ongoing.

A skeletal workforce among the maintenance personnel is now in place, where 50% of the auxiliary staff report to work alternately every two weeks. Most of them are accommodated in the dormitory. Effective September 1, 2020, the office staff and non-academic personnel are also requested to follow a similar arrangement so that a skeletal work force is maintained in all the offices to serve the needs of walk-in clients. If there is a need to do Work From Home (WFH) during off duty, a maximum of 20 hours per week shall be considered and must be approved by the University President. The immediate head must submit to the Vice President and to the Head of Human Resource Services the WFH work output of their subordinates for monitoring and payroll purposes.

To ensure the smooth operations of all service units, lay managers and middle managers who are currently on WFH arrangement are requested to report for work at least two days per week starting September 1, 2020, except for those who are immunocompromised. This is specifically true for those who are expected to supervise or monitor the work of non-academic, office, or auxiliary staff members. Days when these managers are on WFH arrangement are counted with six hours credit only.

Our agreement with our two internet providers obliges us to continue the use of their internet services until the end of the contract. Faculty members and academic managers are, therefore, encouraged to optimize the internet facilities in campus. High School faculty members are required by their Principal to conduct their online classes using the internet facilities of SPU Manila. In this way, problems regarding internet connectivity are minimized or entirely avoided. Likewise, College faculty members, especially those with unstable internet connectivity at home, are enjoined to conduct their classes using the internet facilities of the school. Academic

managers who are supervising and monitoring online and flexible learning are expected to be in school once or twice every week.

Thank you for your utmost cooperation and support. Top management appreciates your hard work and dedication amidst the current challenges that we are experiencing. By working together, we can achieve our mission as Paulinian Educators in the new normal.

## **NATION OBSERVES NATIONAL HEROES DAY**

Today, 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2020, the nation remembers and honors the country's national heroes.

We all know our traditional heroes, but we also know that in this time of the Covid-19 pandemic, many new heroes have emerged especially among our health workers here and abroad. Today we share an article about the Filipino health workers in the United States who have given their lives to save others:

More than a quarter of migrant nurses in the U.S. is Filipino, one of several reasons the group has been disproportionately affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Christina S. Zhu / for NBC News. Aug. 27, 2020, 10:10 PM PST

By Agnes Constante

Katherina Faustino didn't think much of the sore throat she developed in late July. As an intensive care nurse at a hospital in Henderson, Nevada, she always wore a mask at work and was used to her throat's constantly feeling dry as a result.

But then she started coughing. And then came a fever that lasted for seven days. Five days after she began exhibiting symptoms, she tested positive for COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus. Then all the adults in her household — her husband, her brother and her in-laws — also contracted the virus. And as a mom of a 10-month-old, she was left with no choice but to care for her daughter while infected. "I felt like I brought this home to my entire family," said Faustino, 46.

Faustino and her family are among many Filipino Americans across the country who have been heavily affected by the pandemic for a variety of reasons, including their large presence in the U.S. health care system — particularly in nursing — and their high rates of pre-existing conditions.

According to the nonprofit Migration Policy Institute, Philippine immigrants represent the largest share of America's 512,000 immigrant registered nurses, at **28 percent**, although that figure is likely an undercount.

Catherine Ceniza Choy, author of "Empire of Care: Nursing and Migration in Filipino American History," told NBC Asian America in April that studies often don't account for second- and third-generation U.S.-born Filipino Americans who also enter the profession.

The large number of Filipino nurses is rooted in the country's colonization of the Philippines in the first half of the 20th century, when Americanized nursing programs were created, Choy said. And when the U.S. experienced a **shortage of nurses** in the 1960s following the establishment of Medicare and Medicaid, it recruited nurses from the Philippines.

As of Aug. 24, at least 193 registered nurses in the U.S. have died of COVID-19 and related complications. Of those, about 30 percent were Filipino. According to National Nurses United, Filipinos account for 4 percent of registered nurses across the U.S. In California, they constitute **nearly 18 percent** of registered nurses. And the group has been hit hard by COVID-19. Data compiled by National Nurses United found that as of Monday, at least 193 registered nurses in the U.S. have died of COVID-19 and related complications. The number is based on media reports, social media posts and obituaries, but the group says it's likely to be an undercount because many deaths aren't publicly reported. Of those, about 30 percent were Filipino.



"That's relatively high, knowing that only 4 percent of U.S. nurses are Filipino," said Zenei Cortez, president of National Nurses United and the California Nurses Association. Cortez, who immigrated to the United States from the Philippines in 1974, attributes the deaths to several factors, specifically the shortage of personal protective equipment, **raising nurses' risk of contracting COVID-19**. She also noted a lack of testing among front-liners: A **survey** conducted by National Nurses United found that 77 percent of nurses aren't being tested for COVID-19.

It's an experience Cortez endured after she requested a test from her employer when she developed a sore throat and a fever. Because she had only a few symptoms, her request was declined.

On Aug. 5, thousands of registered nurse members of National Nurses United rallied at hospital facilities across the country to demand better protections against COVID-19. He said about 40 percent of respondents reported that either they work in health care or have family members working in health care. And because Filipino Americans often live in multigenerational households, the community's risk of infection is increased.



"One person might be going out, but they definitely are bringing everything back with them when they come home from work, because they're forced to work out there on the front line," he said. "We're talking about their parents, their kids, all of that. It's a very particular position to be in, and it's one that I think is unique to the Filipino and Filipino American community."