

May 6, 2019

NURSES WEEK: RECOGNIZING NURSES AS CRUCIAL TO HEALTH CARE



Contact:

Media Desk
850-595-6500, ext. 6000

Pensacola, Fla. – Across Florida, there are thousands of nurses with a passion and commitment to care for others in their greatest times of need. They are the compassionate faces at the bedside and the healing hands that work tirelessly to ensure that each patient, adult or child, receives safe, quality health care.

This week, May 6 through May 12, the Florida Department of Health in Escambia County (FDOH-Escambia) observes National Nurses Week to highlight the diverse ways nurses are working to improve health care and help people in our community reach their optimal level of health. Today, there are more than 400,000 nursing professionals in Florida who play a vital role in maintaining the health of Floridians.

“Our nurses play a key role in protecting, promoting, and improving the health of people in Escambia County,” said FDOH-Escambia’s Director and Health Officer, Dr. John Lanza. “The list of duties for which we rely on our nurses is extensive. In addition to helping us provide core health care services such as immunizing people against preventable diseases, family planning services, and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), public health nurses manage community health programs and interventions as well as help investigate health problems in our community, educate individuals and groups about health risks and prevention of disease.”

Nursing: The Most Trusted Profession in the Country

Nurses make up a large portion of Florida’s health care workforce. Almost everyone has had an interaction with a nurse, whether it be in a hospital, health clinic, private practice, home care setting or school environment where nurses are often the primary caregivers and patient advocates.

According to Gallup’s 2018 Honesty and Ethics Survey, more than four in five Americans (84%) rate the honesty and ethical standards of nurses as "very high" or "high," earning them the top spot among a diverse list of professions for the 17th consecutive year. With the exception of 2001, when firefighters were on the list after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, nurses have far outpaced all other professions since their addition to the list two decades ago.

Last month, Governor DeSantis signed a proclamation acknowledging the importance and efforts of Florida’s nurses in meeting the health care needs of our communities.

###

About the Florida Department of Health

The department, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

Follow us on Twitter at [@HealthyEscambia](#) and on [Facebook](#). For more information about the Florida Department of Health please visit www.FloridaHealth.gov.