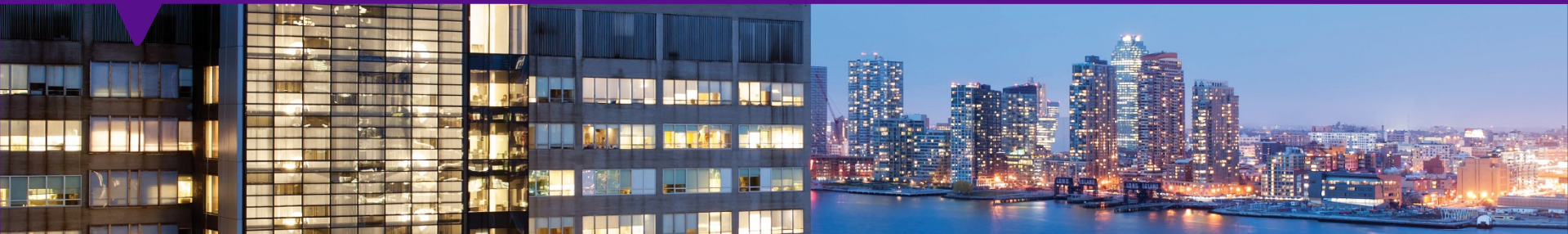




FIGHTING COVID-19 ON THE FRONTLINE

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Challenges for Nursing on the Frontline

- Uncertainty in:
 - how to care for COVID-19 patients
 - provider safety
- End-of-life care to those with no family present; nurse becomes the family
- Social stigma of COVID-19 frontline nurses and public perception we are “contaminated”
- Working with limited and reduced resources; crisis standards of care

Impact on Well-Being of Frontline Nurses

- Physically, mentally, spiritually exhausting
- Unrelenting stress
- Nervous exhaustion
- Most significant impact: Mental health

Nurse Preparation For Pandemic Response: Are New Nurses Prepared?

- Students often have little experience in nursing school for caring for critically ill patients
- No experience working in crisis standards of care, used to having all supplies needed, plus some
- No experience with rapid adaptation

Key Lessons Learned To Better Prepare Nurses For Pandemic Response

- Skills for EBP are essential for all nurses to stay abreast of the constant new information during an unfolding pandemic
- Many nurses do not have a strong foundation in basic pandemic response
- Providing “crisis standards” of care is stressful for healthcare workers
- Culture does influence the "why, how and what” of care for specific groups
 - Pandemic response includes attention to the body, mind and the spirit
- Cross assignment to other specialties with supported rapid cross training works

Advice For Healthcare Systems To Prepare All Healthcare Workers

- PLAN:
 - Plan to care for the caretakers: Assure mental health support for nurses and the rest of the healthcare team
 - Plan for surge needs of nursing who can provide culturally appropriate care
 - Acknowledge the enduring contribution of nurses in pandemic response
 - Support administrative-frontline communication with staff, including active listening, especially during pandemic uncertainty
 - Prepare nurses to be ready and confident for cross assignment with rapid cross training
 - Reinforce the integration of family into nursing care across all settings

MESSAGE TO MY FELLOW NURSES



THANK YOU

