

2021 Division of Nursing Services Nurse of the Month

Nominee: **Lori Haas, RN, MSN**

Lori Haas joined the Western Oregon Service Unit (WOSU) as our Public Health Nurse (PHN) in September of 2020. She very quickly became an indispensable member of our team. In addition to her role as PHN, she is also the clinic vaccine coordinator to include the vaccines for children (VFC) program, and the clinic Employee Health Nurse. All these roles are important to the nursing program; however, their importance has been even more vital during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. In particular, Lori has been the driving force behind the WOSU COVID vaccine program. She has completed all the training to become a subject matter expert on the Moderna, Pfizer, and Jassen vaccines, and has put all the appropriate processes in place to ensure that WOSU is able to administer these vaccines to the Chemawa community in a safe and efficient manner. She has ensured that all nursing and pharmacy staff are trained and have competencies in place to be able to safely administer the vaccine. She worked with the medical director in order to order put COVID vaccine standing orders into place. She coordinated with the Chemawa Indian School staff to be able to utilize their gym as a mass vaccine site, and then she proceeded to set the facility up in order to provide our patients with an efficient mass vaccination process. Lori initially utilized the nursing department to run all components of the mass vaccination clinics and then was able to pivot her operations to include ancillary clinic staff in non-vaccine administration roles. She ensured these ancillary staff were trained in all processes. Lori tracks the receipt and administration of all COVID vaccines for the facility and provides clinic and Area leadership with detailed daily reports on vaccine administration.

Lori's dedication to the mission is unwavering. She has gone to great lengths to ensure our patients had quick and easy access to the COVID vaccine. She personally ensured that no vaccine was wasted, and on occasion waited outside the clinic at the end of the day to ensure that all doses were administered to patients prior to expiration. She is the very definition of a nurse; professional, hardworking, dedicated, and caring.

To date, WOSU has administered over 4,900 COVID vaccines, over 70% of our active user population has received at least one dose of vaccine, and 87% of our staff are fully vaccinated. WOSU was the first clinic in the Portland Area to open COVID vaccinations to priority level three patients, and we currently have higher vaccination rates than Marion County and all other Portland Area federal sites.

These successes are all due to the Herculean efforts of Lori Haas. This would not have been possible without her leadership and hard work.

I am pleased to nominate Lori Haas for the DNS IHS Nurse of the Month. Ms. Haas is fully compliant with all requirements of federal service employees. There are no adverse or disciplinary actions pending against this individual.