



# COMMONWEALTH NURSES AND MIDWIVES FEDERATION

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## THE QUEEN MAKES A CALL ON INTERNATIONAL NURSES' DAY 2020



Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, and members of the British Royal Family, released a video to mark International Nurses' Day, the International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife, and to pay tribute to the work nurses are doing providing front line care during the COVID-19 pandemic. The video begins with a telephone call made by the Queen to Professor Kathleen McCourt, President of the Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation. To watch the video go to:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-52639721>

## IND GREETINGS from the Commonwealth Pharmacists Association

The CNMF was delighted to receive the following greeting from the Commonwealth Pharmacists Association on International Nurses Day:

"The Commonwealth Pharmacists Association sends greetings to the Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation on this special day when remembering the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale. We send our best wishes to nurses throughout the Commonwealth who are working with pharmacy and other health colleagues to provide support and care at this difficult time during the Coronavirus pandemic. We acknowledge and pay tribute to our nursing colleagues today treating the sick and helping people across the Commonwealth to keep safe and well. Our best wishes are sent to you all."

Victoria Rutter, Executive Director  
Commonwealth Pharmacists Association

## VALE

### DR MBOLOLWA MBIKUSITA-LEWANIKA



The CNMF was deeply saddened by the recent death of Dr Mbololwa Mbikusita-Lewanika, Health Advisor to the Commonwealth Secretariat. Mbololwa worked closely and collaboratively with all the Commonwealth accredited civil society health organisations. She was a highly intelligent, hard-working, respectful and kind leader who welcomed civil society as a partner in all her work for the Commonwealth. Regardless of obstacles, Mbololwa was always patient, inclusive, and smiling. She will be greatly missed.

## FREE COVID-19 COURSES



The World Continuing Education Alliance (WCEA) works in partnership with the World Medical Association, the International Council of Nurses and other key partners to provide professional health care workers access to education through online systems and mobile technology. In doing so they work with respected educators to make their content available around the world. In response to the global pandemic the WCEA has made available Coronavirus courses from some of the world's leading education providers. The content is provided free of charge to all registered health care professionals.

To access go to: <https://wcea.education/covid/>



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## 2020 COMMONWEALTH CIVIL SOCIETY POLICY FORUM



The 2020 Commonwealth Civil Society Policy Forum was held on 6 May as a virtual meeting. The topic was: *Strengthening health systems with digital technologies in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure universal health coverage.*

The Forum was a great success with 225 persons participating from 56 countries and from every region of the Commonwealth as well as non-Commonwealth countries. Speakers identified potential benefits and opportunities in the use of digital technologies in health care as well as potential challenges and risks.

### Potential benefits and opportunities

- Enhancing diagnostics and health monitoring particularly for vulnerable populations.
- Enhancing health workforce data collection, analysis, and forward projections.
- Enhancing health workforce education and training.
- Enhancing distribution of information to the general population and the health workforce.
- Enhancing access and improving equity in the provision of health care.

### Potential challenges and risks

- Lack of standardisation and interoperability within countries and between countries.
- Concerns about privacy of data and security of data and overcoming a lack of trust and transparency in the use of data as well as concerns about inappropriate use of data e.g. for surveillance of individuals, groups, or the general population.
- Overcoming barriers to access of digital health care solutions due to age and other considerations such as language and poor mobile penetration and internet access.

Five recommendations from the Forum were presented to the annual Commonwealth Health Ministers' meeting on 14 May. To access the report of the Forum, the video of the proceedings, and the recommendations go to: <https://www.commonwealthnurses.org>.

## WORLDWIDE SURVEY ON THE USE OF PPE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

A group of Harvard Medical School researchers are conducting a worldwide study on the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) during the COVID-19 crisis. Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic various Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) guidelines have been published, but adherence to the guidelines has been variable. The survey is collecting worldwide data on the usage of PPE by health care workers (paramedics, medical technicians, nurses, doctors etc) with the aim of identifying differences across countries. This will allow learning from different systems and help design unified guidance to optimise the protection of health workers on the front line fighting the pandemic.

Participation is voluntary and all responses will remain anonymous. The study has IRB approval by the Ethics Committee at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, USA. For any queries, email Dr Adriana Panayi ([apanayi@bwh.harvard.edu](mailto:apanayi@bwh.harvard.edu))

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The survey takes one minute. To participate, go to: <https://redcap.partners.org/redcap/surveys/?s=EDXELDKJCL>

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## WHO ACADEMY COVID-19 MOBILE LEARNING APP

The WHO Academy has launched its mobile COVID-19 learning app for health workers. The app delivers mobile access to a wealth of COVID-19 knowledge resources developed by WHO, including guidance, tools, training, and virtual workshops to support health workers in caring for patients infected by COVID-19 and protect themselves. Resources include maintaining essential health services, IPC and occupational health, case management, community engagement and many others.

Apple app store:

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/who-academy/id1506019873?ls=1>

Android:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.who.WHOA>

For more information on the WHO Academy:

<https://www.who.int/about/who-academy>