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American Academy of Nursing Releases Policy Brief Urging Expansion of Nursing's Role in Response to Global Pandemics

Nurses are Integral in the Creation of Coordinated Networks Addressing Global Pandemics

Washington, D.C. (October 10, 2018) —The American Academy of Nursing today released its policy brief on expanding the role of nurses in responding to global pandemics. Infectious diseases account for the third leading cause of death in the world. The recent Ebola virus outbreak has shown that serious gaps exist in the incorporation of nursing knowledge in the screening, identifying, and responding to, emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases in a coordinated way. Prevention is the best response to global pandemics.

The Academy's policy brief, "Expanding nursing's role in responding to global pandemics," was published in the July/August 2018 issue of the Academy's journal, *Nursing Outlook*.

"The Academy views the role of nurses helping to develop coordinated global networks that identify and respond to emerging infectious disease outbreaks as critical," said Academy President Karen Cox, PhD, RN, FAAN. "As the largest part of the health workforce in every country, nurses must be key players on interprofessional teams to prepare communities for the next global pandemic."

The Academy urges international organizations, such as the International Council of Nursing (ICN) and the World Health Organization (WHO) Dept. of Pandemic and Epidemic Diseases, and national agencies, including the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to work with national nurse leaders to develop an in-country national nurse-coordinated network comprised of community health workers, clinic nurses, and physician/lab technologists, aimed at quickly identifying and responding to emerging or re-emerging infectious diseases.

Within these rapid response networks, local community health workers would work hand-in-hand with nurses to identify and prevent emerging threats before they become global pandemics like the Ebola virus outbreak. The network should include funding and resources to facilitate rapid response, including the distribution of: cell phones or other means of communication for first points of contact; pharmaceuticals; lab equipment for identifying diseases; and other treatment-related resources.

Read the full policy brief: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.outlook.2018.06.003>.

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The American Academy of Nursing (www.AANnet.org) serves the public and the nursing profession by advancing health policy and practice through the generation, synthesis, and dissemination of nursing knowledge. The Academy's more than 2,500 fellows are nursing's most accomplished leaders in education, management, practice, and research. They have been recognized for their extraordinary contributions to nursing and healthcare.

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