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## Healthcare Heroes Memorialized



<https://covid-19archive.org/admin/item/10206>

<https://covid-19archive.org/admin/item/12625>

2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic will be remembered for many different reasons. Political elections, social unrest, and economic shutdowns dominated our news cycles in front of the backdrop of the worst healthcare crisis in recent memory. During all of the chaos, our healthcare providers have shouldered the enormous burden of caring for the unprecedented numbers of sick and dying, while putting their own health and safety at risk. The public response to their heroic sacrifice has been one of the few unifying ideologies we have seen during this tumultuous year, and it should be celebrated for its positive influence on the frontline medical workers as well as on an increasingly divided society.

Unimaginable scenes of death, illness, and suffering became common in hospitals all around the world during the height of the pandemic. Healthcare providers, many of whom were isolated from their loved ones for fear of spreading the virus, were asked to push aside their grief, exhaustion, fear, and comfort for the benefit of everyone else. The Covid-19: Journal of the Plague Year's Healthcare Collection features countless submissions that highlight the challenges that healthcare providers faced and show how they were affected by these horrors. Whether it was a lack of protective equipment that caused great levels of anxiety about their own safety, or the overwhelming emotion that accompanied caring for so many people that inevitably died, these uniquely challenging experiences have characterized the perspective of many frontline medical workers during this hellish pandemic.



<https://covid-19archive.org/admin/item/25593>

This submission is a heartbreaking picture of two Italian ICU nurses comforting each other in the hallway outside of a patient's room. Scenes like this one have been too common during the pandemic and show the desperation felt by many healthcare providers in their efforts to combat COVID-19.

<https://covid-19archive.org/admin/item/34763>

Healthcare providers have faced many challenges in the fight against COVID-19. The limited supply of personal protective equipment that was designed to keep them safe as they did their job made the situation much more unstable. Difficult decisions had to be made in many households of healthcare providers that others did not have to consider.

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### Anxieties over COVID-19 and possible PPE shortages prompting some health care workers to draft wills

'No one signed up to be on a suicide mission,' says family physician

 Aarti Pole · CBC News · Posted: Apr 06, 2020 3:40 PM ET | Last Updated: April 7

A photograph of Aarti Pole, a family physician, in a hospital setting. She is wearing glasses and has a serious expression. In the background, there are medical equipment and a wall-mounted device.

However, the public has done an inspiring job of ensuring that healthcare workers know their heroic efforts are appreciated. Drive around any neighborhood in America and you will see the signs displaying support for medical workers posted up on front lawns and balconies everywhere. Many people and corporations have donated food and supplies, like much needed PPE, to hospitals as a means to support the healthcare providers. Additionally, the public found other interesting ways to show their support for the frontline workers, like using social media to coordinate communal actions of support. All of these efforts truly helped to remind the healthcare providers that they were not alone, and that their sacrifices meant so much to so many people.

In the end, our gratitude for those who put the health of our society before their own should remain at the forefront of the memory of the COVID-19 pandemic. During all of the political and social turmoil, healthcare workers and the public support for them crossed over lines of political, social, racial, religious, and any other divisions within our society. All members of our community were part of the medical response to COVID-19 and all members of society could connect with each other through our shared appreciation for their bravery and care. The Healthcare collection within the archive seeks to honor these heroes and the public responses to their efforts so that we can remember the things that brought us together rather than tore us apart during the pandemic.

Keywords: healthcare, nurse, doctor, physician, hospital, first responder, public, community, support



<https://covid-19archive.org/admin/item/17724>

Businesses used traditional methods of advertising, like billboards, to thank the healthcare community for their work.



<https://covid-19archive.org/admin/item/16669>

This is a great example of a unique method that the Chicago community used to show their support for their healthcare providers on the frontlines of the COVID-19 response.

Featured Items:

Aaron Peterka. "To all Healthcare Workers." In *A Journal of the Plague Year*, accessed April 18, 2021 <https://covid-19archive.org/admin/item/17724>

Mohammad Khan. "Show support to our Chicago Front Line healthcare workers of there bravery during this time." In *A Journal of the Plague Year*, accessed April 18, 2021 <https://covid-19archive.org/admin/item/16669>

Unknown. "NHS(uperheroes)" In *A Journal of the Plague Year*, accessed April 18, 2021 <https://covid-19archive.org/admin/item/10206>

Vanesa Chiodo. "Corona Doesn't Spare Health Care Professionals." In *A Journal of the Plague Year*, accessed April 18, 2021 <https://covid-19archive.org/admin/item/25593>

Catherine Gaskin. "Anxieties over COVID-19 and possible PPE shortages prompting some health care workers to draft wills." In *A Journal of the Plague Year*, accessed April 18, 2021 <https://covid-19archive.org/admin/item/34763>

Lina Ennayat, Malcolm Mayes. "Superman offers cape to COVID-19 nurse." In *A Journal of the Plague Year*, accessed April 18, 2021 <https://covid-19archive.org/admin/item/12625>