

## **The Wait --** Written by a nurse practitioner in Oklahoma

One of the hardest parts of COVID-19.

The wait.

The halls are empty. There are no visitors now- trying to lock out infection I guess.

The nonemergency surgeries have been cancelled to keep supplies and staff ready. Most people aren't coming to the ER for minor problems because they are listening to what we ask.

The wave is coming we hear. It's the lag between the earthquake and the tsunami finally hitting shore.

Every test we want to run is a fight with the powers that be to allow testing.

-They don't meet the criteria.

-We don't have enough tests.

-They aren't sick enough to test.

So we know the numbers on your TV aren't even close.

None of us know what to expect.

If we will have enough.

How many we will lose.

Will we do enough.

Will we know what to do.

It all changes so fast- multiple times a day.

The nurses are terrified. The house keepers hustle through their day. Not much laughter at the nurses station anymore.

The providers are scared. There is no roadmap for this. We know our colleagues are dying after providing care.

But still we wait. And we are as ready as we will ever be.

