

'Fate' of Italian nurse, and countless other health workers, depends on protective clothing. ***7 April 2020, UN News***

Laura Lupi works at a COVID-19 hospital in Teramo in the Abruzzo region of Italy to the east of the capital, Rome. On 6 April, Italy had _____ over 16,500 deaths from the virus, more than _____ other country in the world.

On World Health Day, marked annually on 7 April, which this year is focusing on the vital work that nurses are _____ in the face of the global pandemic, Ms. Lupi explains why she is _____ to put her health and life on the _____ to help the sick.

“How we put on our protective equipment at the beginning of each _____, determines our fate. Those first 20 minutes of donning our protective _____ are imperative to avoid getting infected. I have worked with infectious _____ before, but this virus is different because we just don't know enough about it.

I _____ from my Bachelor's degree programme in nursing a year ago and worked in a general _____ and a geriatrics department, but nothing could have prepared me for the professional and emotional _____ I am facing now. I am _____ 38 patients and do seven or ten-hour shifts, during which I cannot eat or drink; we cannot take off our protective equipment once we have put it on. At times, it _____ hard to breathe and even if I open the window, I cannot feel fresh air.

Perhaps what is most challenging, is the fact that we must _____ a physical distance from our patients, which is made _____ by the fact that we are entirely covered. _____ of the human connection is lost, which is one of the things that made me fall in love with this profession in the first place.

Constant fear of infection

On the first day at the COVID-19 hospital, I entered a room where a patient was crying. When I _____ what had happened, he told me his mother-in-law _____ died and how he regretted not _____ able to comfort his wife. All I could do to _____ his pain was to place a hand on his chest, but he could not _____ see my face.

In the past, I used to enjoy thinking back to my workday, knowing that challenging moments could be _____ for growth. I now live with the constant terror of infecting others and prefer to avoid thinking of work after a shift. _____, I try to distract myself, to avoid thinking about having been infected or infecting my _____ ones.

I want to hear my patients say, 'I have survived'

We've always known that our job, as nurses, _____ some risk with it. The difference now is that others know it too. I feel rewarded by the expression of solidarity from everyone; it is gratifying to read that people _____ our role – they truly see us and our work now.

For the future, I hope to see patients _____ and leave the hospital. I know we can _____ this virus; we can fight it together. I want to hear _____ patients say, 'I have survived COVID-19.' That is _____ motivates me and keeps me going. We will do everything that is humanly possible to overcome this situation together and we will succeed; we must. Never _____ us nurses.

The _____ thing we ask you is to stay at home for us. We will stay at work for you.”

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/04/1061222>





2020
INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF THE NURSE AND
THE MIDWIFE