Dear Colleagues,

As we celebrate the “Year of the Nurse 2020”, we as frontline providers in the Health Care System are facing challenging times as never before.

We must be prepared to take care of ourselves first of all so that we can take care of our families and friends and most importantly the patients entrusted to our care. In order to do so we must adhere to the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO), the Department of Health, the hospitals and other medical facilities.

This is additional stress placed on nurses and support staff due to the challenges of the work environment. Working together, supporting each other, we will get through this crisis.

VISNAwill be calling on the administration in the hospitals and clinics to ensure that there is adequate and appropriate supplies of PPEs for frontline staff and constant educational sessions and updates on the latest information coming out of the CDC and the Department of Health.

Again, I assure you that with education and following the proper protocols that is put in place by the authorities and the CDC, we will overcome this crisis as we serve in our schools, churches, homes and the community at large.

The American Nurses Association (ANA), the national nurses association of which VISNA is a member, is working with the CDC and other entities in keeping its members informed of what is happening as it pertains to the Corona Virus (COVID-19). President Ernest Grant RN, PhD and members of his board are working diligently to keep the members informed about any new developments as it pertains to the Corona Virus .Please visit the ANA website at **nursingworld.org** to receive updated information and answers to questions and concerns you may have.

The Board of Directors of VISNA is working hard to support our nurses in any way we can; please visit the website of VISNA to post ~~y~~our questions and concerns **(visna.nursingnetwork.com**).

Nurses with infants, pre-school and school age children we know are facing challenging and uncertain times. Please reach out to family and friends for help and support, teach your family proper hand hygiene techniques and keep them at home when sick. The Department of Health has numbers to call for questions and concerns about you or your family member, the numbers are 340 712 6299 ST. Croix and 340 774 7477 ext. 5647.

I wish God’s blessings on us all as we go through these challenging times.

Respectfully,

Evet Rivera, President

Virgin Island State Nurses Association.