

## Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital – United Steel Workers Strike Update

### Volume 4 – August 8, 2023

- Over the past days, hospital operations continued to run exceptionally well. Our replacement nurse colleagues – supported by our physicians, faculty and fellow staff members – have demonstrated great competence with our policies and processes. We have received many compliments about them from patients, which we are sharing with their agency leaders.
- Procedural areas across RWJUH are running well and are planning to increase volume. As of today, RWJUH is running at 90 percent of its target for patient volumes.
- As a further sign that we are functioning normally, we have begun the onboarding process for 51 new nurses for our campus – these are RWJUH nurses, not replacement nurses – which reflects our ongoing commitment to recruit and retain the highest quality team possible.
- Unfortunately, we continue to receive complaints from patients and visitors, as well as our immediate neighbors, about the noise levels from striking nurses and their supporters. None of the behavior on the picket line is unexpected, but it is truly unfortunate.
- Our staff on the units are doing a lot to help our patients rest and manage through the sounds being directed at them from the picketers. We thank them for this work as it makes an incredible difference to the patients and their families who are visiting. They told us how grateful they are during rounds throughout the weekend. It is disheartening that our union nurse colleagues do not respect our patients' right to a calm and healing environment while they exercise their right to picket.
- With regard to negotiations, we can report that representatives from both RWJUH and the union will return to the table on August 9, after being requested by the mediator. RWJUH has consistently expressed its willingness to return to the table and welcomes the invitation from the mediator to meet on Wednesday.
- We extend our deepest thanks to the entire team at RWJUH for their hard work and efforts during this strike.