

RIVIER RISES TO THE COVID-19 CHALLENGE

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In March 2020, COVID-19 presented new and immediate challenges globally. As Rivier students, faculty, and staff transitioned to a remote environment, the University stepped up to support the health and safety needs of the Greater Nashua community.

“Rivier was grateful to be in a position to assist local healthcare providers and community members with donations of medical and protective gear,” says Rivier President **Sister Paula Marie Buley, IHM**. “It was our privilege to support our neighbors in the fight against COVID-19.”

Hundreds of personal protective items including masks, gowns, and gloves were distributed, along with IV pumps, beds, trays, and more.

Donations were provided to St. Joseph Hospital, Southern NH Medical Center, Catholic Medical Center, Elliot Hospital, Lowell General Hospital, Lamprey Health Care, and Nashua Home Health and Hospice Care.

Additionally, the University shared its telehealth technology and equipment, including laptops and iPads, with caregivers at Nashua’s Division of Public Health & Community Services, Concord Hospice Care, and Merrimack Home Health and Hospice Care to conduct virtual home visits and remote assessments. The ability to check-in on patients’ overall wellbeing with telehealth visits allowed nurses and LNAs to work together to provide care to hospice patients, decrease the number of healthcare workers going into homes, and limit potential virus exposure.

“In many instances, we were supporting nursing and public health alumni working on the front lines,” says **Dr. Paula Williams**, Dean of the Division of Nursing and Health Professions. “Rivier has graduated more nurses than any other institution in the state. It was tremendously rewarding to help our Rivier family and members of our local community.” ■