



**Lookout**  
SANTA CRUZ

# NEWS QUIZ

## Lesson Plan

### 'WE'RE DROWNING': DOMINICAN NURSES RAISE ALARMS OVER STAFFING, PATIENT CARE



#### Quick Take

Nurses at Dominican Hospital in Santa Cruz say staffing levels aren't meeting the needs of patients who are arriving with more severe conditions than in prior years. They told Lookout that hospital administrators aren't doing enough to address their concerns.

**Grade Level: 9-12   Lesson time: 30 minutes**

#### Overview

Lookout's News Quizzes are a great way to get students interested in local news in an easy and quick way. These quizzes test reading comprehension while getting students more informed on issues and happenings in the community.

#### Instructions

Have students read the article, answer the 10 questions and then share any observations.

## Question 1

What is the main concern nurses at Dominican Hospital are raising about patient care?

Nurses say staffing levels are too low, leading to inadequate patient care as they struggle to keep up with basic and medical needs.

## Question 2

What types of support staff have been reduced at the hospital, according to nurse Jennifer Powers?

Patient care technicians (who help with grooming, bathing, and feeding patients) and resource nurses (who cover for nurses during breaks).

### Question 3

How are nurses being affected by the reduction in support staff?

Nurses are spending time on non-medical tasks, such as cleaning patients after accidents, which takes away from essential duties like patient education and administering medications.

### Question 4

What concerns do nurses have about hospital cleanliness, especially in the emergency department?

The hospital's emergency department bathrooms are not being cleaned regularly, increasing the risk of spreading infectious diseases among patients.

### Question 5

How have nurses attempted to communicate their concerns to hospital management?

Nurses have repeatedly voiced their concerns in monthly meetings with management, written an open letter signed by 300 nurses, and publicly called for improvements.

### Question 6

What reasons have hospital administrators given for not hiring more support staff?

Administrators claim that the hospital does not have the funds to hire more support staff.

## Question 7

What is CommonSpirit Health's response to staffing concerns?

CommonSpirit Health stated that they are prioritizing patient and staff health, highlighting their Nurse Residency Program and new doctor training program to strengthen their workforce.

## Question 8

What upcoming event are nurses planning as a way to protest staffing issues?

Nurses are participating in a nationwide informational picket on Thursday, Jan. 16, as part of a "National Day of Solidarity Action."



## Question 9

Do you think the nurses' concerns are justified? Why or why not?

Open-ended—students should consider factors like the nurses' firsthand experiences, patient conditions, and the hospital's high safety ratings.

## Question 10

If you were a hospital administrator, how would you address the staffing issues raised by the nurses?

Open-ended—students may suggest solutions like hiring additional support staff, reallocating hospital funds, improving efficiency, or increasing incentives for night shift nurses.