

The incidence of coronavirus cases has increased in Finland during the past week. Several coronavirus clusters and transmission chains have been reported in many hospital districts. Although, the situation has been quite calm comparing to many other European countries. There have been about 9000 Coronavirus cases and 339 deaths in Finland (population 5.5 million). The 14-day cumulative number of COVID-19 cases per 100 000 is now 12.6, the second lowest in EORNA countries (variation between 8.3 to 300.5). Related to this topic, Jaana Perttunen, the president of FORNA, gave an invited presentation in 31st Panhellenic Congress of Greek Operating Room Association (*"Covid 19 pandemic in Finland – how we have managed so far?"*).

In the spring 2020 the measures to slow down the spreading was done. Those included e.g. closing the schools, limiting public gatherings, closing bars and restaurants, and closing the country's borders. During the summer, the situation returned to almost normal. In health care the aim was and still is to prevent overloading of health care capacity, which has been quite successful. The amount of hospitalized and ICU patients has been evenly distributed.

The pandemic has affected to operating units as well. During the spring most of the elective surgery was cancelled, and the perioperative nurses were educated as ICU nurses in many hospitals. The experiences about the different kind of work among the OR nurses have been similar. The work in ICU has caused a lot of stress and coping. Many OR nurses have had feelings of frustration when they have to change professionally – *"from an expert back to a beginner"*. Despite of everything, there have been also the positive experiences, like one OR nurse said: *"Months in the intensive care unit taught me to value my own work in OR even more. Self-esteem in my own work rose. I'm really good in my work and proud of it."*

However, the Coronavirus positive cases are increasing all over the world, the restrictions in Finland are not as severe as they were during the spring. The society is working quite normally, and the Finns relay on the recommendations of hand hygiene, 1-2 meters distance between people and avoiding crowded places and meetings.