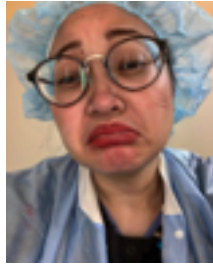


An ED nurse's mini struggles against COVID at work



COVID why oh why?
I drive to work anxiously, turned my radio off and started to pray.
 Risking my life to take care of you.
I don my PPE, I can't scratch my face; I'm desensitized.
Oh wait, maybe I can do facial grimaces to relieve that itch!
 Oh no! I can't risk losing my respirator's perfect fit!
 Okay, stop Trish and think!
Maybe, just keep talking and keep tasking to distract yourself and get your job done focus Trish!
 Oh my, my sweat is dripping! Good job for not skipping deodorant this morning!
 Thank God for the headpiece foam catching each drip.
 Thank God for the PPE that is still provided to me.
 I'm really thirsty; parched lips, no bathroom trips
 Oh yah i can't drink to save this PPE
 This high CO2 is making me dizzy
 A little confused, with this huge headache!
 Give me a minute.
 That's all it will take.
For me to sit down, but hey don't you worry.
 I'm still geared up and will be around.
 I'll promise not to pass out.
I just hope people are staying home for me.
 To stop this virus that's my plea.
 Oh yey! There is pizza in the break-room!
 Stanford ED employees sent it over!
 Wow how nice! I am blessed!
Happy to hear of random kindness acts still persists
Despite the case of Lysol sprayed on nurses while pumping gas!
It would surely make my day if toilet papers too are freely given away.
I go home exhausted, still needing to strip by my door.
 Oops! Pardon me the neighbors will see!
 Blinds were not shut, oh forgetful anxious me!
 Chill Trish! It's okay!
 Just run to the shower real fast.
 Now, get to sleep, you tired soldier!
 Be ready for next battle!
For tomorrow will be another day- with love, Trish, your nurse.

PS: don't wear red lipstick anymore, it's going to be hard to stay cute.

- Trisha Badong, RN, 2nd year NP Student