

*15,000 Minnesota nurses return
to work after 3-day strike*

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Minneapolis, September 16 (RHC)-- In the U.S. state of Minnesota, 15,000 nurses returned to work on Thursday after three days spent on picket lines in the largest private sector nurses' strike in U.S. history. The nurses want pay increases to keep ahead of spiraling inflation, and they say dangerously low staffing levels — and pandemic burnout — have led to low morale that's driving nurses from the profession.

Minnesota Nurses Association President Mary Turner joined picketers outside a children's hospital in Minneapolis Wednesday. She told reporters: "This is a fight for our very profession. And if you guys haven't heard the study out of Illinois University, 51% of the nurses potentially will leave the bedside as of next year. Fifty-one percent! That is a public health crisis. And so, we're pushing for a contract that will draw nurses back to the bedside, because we have plenty of nurses, but we have nurses that don't want to work in the conditions that are out there. And I can say this message to every nurse in every state, and they'd understand what I'm talking about."

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