



April 11, 2020

Dear Fellow Employee,

As we continue to respond to this crisis we are developing guidelines and processes that will in all probability continue well after the pandemic subsides. By responding to this situation, we have instituted approaches that will keep our work environment clean throughout the day and night which in the end protects ourselves and our patients.

We have looked at our donning and doffing procedures, improved them and educated our employees. We have become smarter in our day long approach to providing care which we should not take a step back on when this crisis ends. Rather, we should continue to build on them and identify what else we can do to make our work areas safer and our approach to care better.

We are now taking a hard look at the Operating Room to improve patient flow, ways to reduce unnecessary people traffic as well as identify how we can improve in areas to make the setting safer for our staff and patients. Although this pandemic is an evil virus causing so much disruption in our lives and unfortunate outcomes for our citizens, we will learn much from it and in the end, we will be a safer health care provider and we will be better prepared for future attacks. Our leadership team is strongly committed to each of you and our patients and will continue to work to identify what more we can do to improve. As always, your input is welcome and appreciated.

Last night we received 32 COVID 19 test results back of which 25 were negative. There were 7 positive, 3 of which are current inpatients. We currently have 4 positive inpatients and 3 inpatients who were tested and results are pending. Good news is 4 of the inpatients who were pending results on came back negative and 1 inpatient who was positive was discharged home. We have had success in treating positive inpatients which is a reflection on our exceptional staff and providers. I am very happy to report we have had no further employees test positive, a good indication that our approach to care today is working to get the outcomes we want in a safe environment.

The isolation section set up in the ECF continues to be worked on and will be used to serve as a staging area for new admissions and any residents who have developed symptoms, such as Upper Respiratory or fever. We had been caring for these residents all along throughout the facility. The specialized unit is designed to do that care better as we will be able to provide a safer facility for all staff and residents. This is one of those initiatives that we will most probably keep in place moving forward.

Thank you again to all of our staff and providers. It takes a committed team of quality people to do all we are doing today. Patient/Resident Centered care is alive and well at Oneida Health!

With Sincerest Gratitude,

Gene F. Morreale
President and CEO