



April 14, 2020

Dear Fellow Employee,

With where we are at in dealing with this pandemic, most things remain under control. We have been able to continue to function well in all of our areas and have been able to secure an adequate supply of PPE to help us manage our care. There are so many people to recognize for going above and beyond and my plan is to celebrate each of us sometime in the near future. Our successful response to this crisis is because of the many outstanding staff and providers who have stepped up to make our outcomes to date, truly exceptional. We will still be battling this pandemic for some time and as I have said in a previous update, this battle may not end. We just need to focus and keep winning!

Please note the following updates:

1. Yesterday you received our updated Visitor Response Plan providing a bit more leeway when visitors may enter clinical areas. Very important is the fact that any visitor is to remain in the patient's room except for entrance and exit from the hospital. Please educate those visitors upon entering that this is the requirement. Failure to strictly abide by this puts staff and other patients at risk. Those not abiding by this requirement will be required to leave and may not return.
2. A question was raised by a staff person regarding our testing program. She has asked how many of those tested here come back positive for Flu and because these individuals tested appear so sick, why so many negative test results.
The answers are we have not had a positive Flu result since March 28. The false negative number in the literature is somewhere between 25%-33%, meaning for those individuals, they could be COVID positive but the test did not identify the virus. As with any testing, 100% accuracy is not the norm. As a result, staff masking, using face shields and hand washing is imperative in all areas where patient care is provided. For those that are COVID positive or who are symptomatic, strict PPE adherence which includes a gown is necessary. Whenever in doubt, please ask for guidance from your manager, supervisor or infection control nurses.
3. We have tested a total of 515 persons with 59 positive, 417 negative and 39 pending. Of the 39 pending, 34 are from yesterday's testing. We have 4 positive inpatients with 13 inpatients pending. The inpatient pending number is higher as we are now testing all new admissions whether symptomatic or not.
4. PPE, although we have everything at this time, remains a concern. Yellow isolation gowns are in low supply, so please use them appropriately and at the same time, sparingly. When in a room where a gown is required, work to accomplish as much as possible during that visit. We would like to limit housekeepers needing to go into patient rooms unless absolutely necessary or for

terminal cleaning. With that as our goal, when you are in the room, bring out trays, trash and other items to maintain a clean and uncluttered room. Anticipate what the patient will need (i.e. vitals, water filled) so as to limit the times the room has to be entered. That will help immensely in our conservation of PPE. Thank you in advance for helping with this objective.

5. The Infection Control Office will be circulating clarification on labeling of Infection Prevention Precautions to be adhered to throughout the ACF and ECF. We need consistency in this area so staff know how to address the situation from a PPE standpoint.

As always, questions or concerns are welcome. Please send to anarrow@oneidahealthcare.org. We will respond asap to any received.

Thank you for helping us, whether clinically or whether supporting that care. Everyone has an important role in helping Oneida Health continue its mission of high quality care and service.

With Sincerest Gratitude,



Gene F. Morreale
President and CEO