



Oneida Health
exceptional care... always

April 16, 2020

Dear Fellow Employee,

Some wind, some snow, some rain and a little bit of sun and cold temperatures. Isn't spring in CNY wonderful? Just like the COVID-19 pandemic, we deal with it and move on....better days are coming!

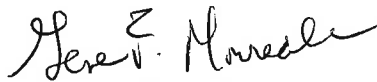
Please note the following updates:

1. The President will be discussing guidelines for re-opening the country. The Governor has just released his plan to maintain social isolation until May 15th. I do not know yet whether the current restriction placed upon us for elective surgery/procedures will stay in place until the 15th? Chances are, they will due to ongoing desire to reduce the spread of the virus. In the meantime, we are using this lower volume time to educate staff and work on improvement initiatives. Once given the green light to re-open, we will do so expeditiously.
2. We have not been able to receive a meaningful amount of COVID-19 testing kits. As a result, we are reducing our inventory of kits and if not replenished, will result in our having to reduce our current amount of testing. We are working daily to secure kits and our hope is to continue with our approach to testing symptomatic patients here. If we do have to close down testing services, the first area closed will most probably be our outside testing site. Again, working not to have to do that.
3. PPE, especially N95 masks need to be conserved to the best of our ability. Our goal is to ensure an adequate supply of PPE so that it is there for you when you need it. One area that I need your positive response to is to not wear make-up to work if you need to wear an N95 mask. The make-up makes the mask less effective and unnecessarily exposes you. In addition, we cannot reprocess that mask for you which is an important part of our mask conservation program. Thank you for your cooperation on this.
4. To date, we tested 577 individuals, 64 positive, 481 negative with 32 pending test results. We have 3 positive inpatients. None on Obstetrics at this time and none in the ECF at this time. 20 individuals tested in our outside testing area yesterday.
5. We will soon roll out the cloth isolation gown program which will significantly impact our disposable gown conservation program. I have communicated that the disposable gowns are in short supply and are an important barrier for staff to wear when caring for symptomatic patients. Having our own laundry onsite is a big advantage as the cloth gowns can be washed and put back in use throughout the day. This is a big win for us. Gowns, once received, will be laundered and put into use in areas of high demand (i.e. isolation units).

6. The recent Visitor Response Plan revisions allow a visitor for a hospitalized or ED patient under certain circumstances. Please remember that all visitors are to be tested for illness symptoms upon entering the facility and every 12 hours thereafter while remaining here with the patient. Although it is difficult to deny re-entry of that visitor if the patient's illness or age meets the new guidelines, visitors should be strongly encouraged to remain with the patient and to not leave and come back. If you have this situation and need assistance, please reach out to your manager or the house supervisor.

I will close this update by congratulating you all for the remarkable work you are doing to date. Your ongoing support and cooperation throughout is noted and appreciated.

With Sincerest Gratitude,



Gene F. Morreale
President and CEO