



April 19, 2020

Dear Fellow Employee,

Today Governor Cuomo proclaimed that we are on the other side of the peak in COVID 19 cases in this state. He also asked that we continue with our current practices of isolation and now masking when we are out in public. Although the plan is to eventually open the state up and get back to some form of normalcy, we are nowhere near that happening. Perhaps mid-May we will be as good as things are going to get and we will open to a “new” normal. What that will look like, time will tell. For me, it will be continued attention to practices that have up to this point protected each of us at work as well as our patients and residents. We are, in my opinion, closer to providing a very safe environment where care can be provided with minimum number of nosocomial infections occurring. I will discuss this more in the near future as this is our opportunity to do it better!

We have tested 654 individuals to date, with 73 positives and 561 negatives and 20 pending exams. We received 41 results yesterday with 5 of those being positive, all outpatients. We have 2 inpatients that are positive and 6 inpatients pending results. These results still show that we are not out of the woods yet and need to continue to practice according to guidelines.

I received an e-mail today from the State updating the flu epidemic we had experienced during this past season. Since flu season started in September of 2019, there have been 157,758 positive flu test results in this State, split pretty much between influenza A and B. As you know not everyone with the flu is tested, so this number for the state is understated. There were 13 pediatric deaths due to flu during this season. Adult deaths are not tracked. My comments earlier in this e-mail relate to the flu as well, as we need to figure out how to control that virus moving forward. The flu will continue to be with us each year and who knows the extent of what COVID will be (i.e. COVID 20)?

I will once again close this update with a HUGE thank you to all of you for continuing the outstanding response to this crisis. Please keep up the great work that you are doing.

With Sincerest Gratitude,

Gene F. Morreale
President and CEO