



April 20, 2020

Dear Fellow Employee,

There is good news coming from the Governor's office today. The state continues to see a downward trend in COVID-19 related deaths although there are still many hospitalizations occurring each day. As you know, we have escaped the worst of this pandemic to date and my hope is that will continue. Time will tell.....

Please note the following updates:

1. The Governor stated he and his team would be announcing a plan to loosen restrictions surrounding elective surgeries at Upstate hospitals. My understanding is this will be a phased in approach with the goal of ensuring adequate bed capacity as well as PPE for any potential COVID-19 surge. Lets hope we can start offering services soon.
2. To date we tested 657 individuals with 73 positive, 574 negative, 10 pending. We have had one death due to coronavirus and remain virus free in our ECF. We have 2 positive inpatients with now only 4 inpatients pending. All other inpatients are negative.
3. We have informed the state that we will serve as testing centers for the population once the Rapid Test is more available. This additional testing will be part of the return to work program for our region.
4. In regards to PPE, we continue to do relatively well in securing important PPE to ensure we have an adequate inventory. The de-contamination of N95 masks that we currently have has helped significantly in conserving what today is a shortage in N95 masks, in particular, the small size. That is the most common size and the most difficult to locate and secure. Please continue to support that reuse. Although the CDC says it is safe to de-contaminate up to 3 times, we will only do it 2 times for now.

Thank you again for being Oneida Health Strong during these challenging times. Lets keep our hopes up that we are soon to be back to business as usual, with a few safety modifications in our approach to care.

With Sincerest Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Gene F. Morreale'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Gene F. Morreale
President and CEO