



April 30, 2020

Dear Fellow Employee,

Most of Oneida Health is now open once again for business. The one exception is “elective” inpatient surgeries. The State have given approval for us to perform “Elective” Outpatient procedures under rather strict guidelines. We are required by the State to submit our types of cases as well as the number of cases performed each month. This is a requirement of all hospitals in the State who were approved to begin performing these procedures. Some parts of the State including NY City as well as Ambulatory Surgery Centers throughout the State cannot open for elective cases at this time.

New York State now has the most COVID-19 cases. What does that mean exactly? Please note the following:

18,015 – The number of people who have died after testing positive for the coronavirus in New York state, as of April 29.

377 – The number of deaths from the coronavirus in New York on April 28. The date with the highest single-day total was April 8, with 799 deaths.

14.9% – The percentage of New Yorkers who were found to have COVID-19 antibodies, according to preliminary results of a statewide study of 7,500 random people released by Gov. Andrew Cuomo on April 27. Among New York City residents, 24.7% had antibodies.

64% – The percentage of victims statewide who are 70 years old or older.

299,691– People who have tested positive for the coronavirus in New York, as of April 29.

12,159 – The number of people currently hospitalized with the coronavirus in New York, as of April 29. The date with the highest single-day total was April 12, with 18,825 people hospitalized.

3,923– The number of patients in intensive care units in New York, as of April 29.

872,481– The number of people who have been tested for coronavirus in New York, as of April 29. 408,236 of the tests have been conducted in New York City.

Oneida Health testing numbers are a very small percentage of the total. We have tested 967; 802 negative and 106 positive. We have 59 pending and still have had 1 death. We currently have 1 positive inpatient with 7 inpatients pending results. We did receive 40 results yesterday, 8 of which were positive outpatients. This number of positives is high for us so please, continue to protect yourself/family members by following all safety guidelines.

The ECF continues with zero positive COVID. I received an email from our ECF staff that I wanted to share as it speaks well, not only for the activities department, it is also a reflection on all staff who are helping our residents through this. The email states:

We have been very busy meeting our resident isolation needs. My team works diligently to carry out an interactive and inviting calendar program every single day. From traveling bowling and Bingo to wheel chair exercises, music programs, games, Krazy- Kooking, our food and resident council committees, religious programs and services, current events and learning groups and of course our weekly Happy Hour. We are also doing the individual visiting and I-pad visits with loved ones. Our biggest challenges are internet availability, ease of connecting with families and of course keeping up with social distancing for the elderly as they do not understand its severity. We continue to strive towards excellence where our residents are concerned.

We have some very good news at it relates to PPE. We have received additional cloth isolation gowns which will help us with significantly reducing our burn rate of yellow throw away isolation gowns. We are in good shape in all other areas with the exception of small N95 masks. Very difficult to purchase those at this time due to a shortage.

We have the software for Rapid Testing for COVID-19 in place on our instrumentation in the lab. What we don't have and are working to secure, is the testing kits needed for that specific test. Current testing kits which are sent to Quest Laboratories, cannot be used for rapid testing. As soon as we receive those tests, results will be generated within 30 minutes versus our current 48 hour turn-around time.

I will close this update by encouraging you to submit any questions/concerns you may have to anarrow@oneidahealthcare.org. Every email sent will be responded to as quickly as possible. I would prefer that you not wonder about things, especially unfounded rumors, that surface from time to time.

Thank you so much to all of our OHC Providers and Staff for all you continue to do during this difficult time.

With Sincerest Gratitude,


Gene F. Morreale
President and CEO