



April 4, 2020

I hope that this e-mail finds you, your family and friends doing well in spite of all that we are facing. It is a difficult situation we are in yet with each passing day, we are getting closer to the end of this pandemic. We still need to all aggressively pursue the CDC and Federal guidelines, protecting ourselves, our family and our patients/residents.

Please note the following update:

1. It is important that we not allow items to be brought into the hospital/ECF for patients and residents. This has surfaced recently with people bringing in phone cords and other personal belongings for hospitalized patients or residents in our ECF. We will review this matter on Monday morning to determine if there is a safe way to accept and appropriately clean these items before bringing to the patient care area. We need to understand, especially for COVID positive or COVID pending patients that these items most probably could carry the virus. Again, we will discuss this Monday morning and determine how to best accommodate and keep our staff and patients safe. Understand that Madison County has an high number of known COVID positive people. There are more out in the community that are positive and have not been tested as well as a number of future positive cases. We have not hit the peak for the spread of this virus yet.
2. Hair covers used at work do not need to be changed between patients unless you are touching them or somehow they were made dirty during your care of the patient. For the isolation area (fourth floor and ICU) where positive patients are cared for, the hair cover should be discarded at the end of the shift. For other areas, unless required for the care of the patient (i.e. OR), you should not wear them as it is a PPE item in short supply.
3. We currently have 3 COVID 19 positive inpatients and 5 inpatients on precautions as we await their test results. We received 23 pending test results, one outpatient positive and 22 negative results. No other employee has tested positive which means we are still at 3 who were positive and recovering. There are 71 total tests pending, all from 4/2 – 4/5. Our grand total for testing is 334 tests, 31 positive and 232 negative, again, with 71 pending.
4. FYI, as of this date and time, the national guard has not presented to our organization. We continue to provide to the State on a daily basis our inventory of PPE and ventilators.
5. Our PPE inventory remains intact although we do not have a high number of any PPE. Therefore, proper use and conservation whenever possible remains important. We continue to order but so does the rest of the country/world. N95 masks remain at a premium. Please use your face shield during any patient/resident interaction over your N95 or your surgical mask. The face shield can be easily cleaned and it will provide you with solid protection from droplets.

I will provide another update tomorrow. Please feel free to print and share with your co-workers. I would like all to be familiar with information provided in my daily updates.

Thank you again for being here and for being a big part of the battle against this virus.

With Sincerest Gratitude,

Gene F. Morreale
President and CEO