



August 25, 2020

Dear Fellow Employee,

As is communicated regularly by the Governor's office, the COVID infection rate remains below 1% statewide and one area of the state i.e. Western NY is slightly above 1% and the Governor has raised the yellow caution flag for that area. The virus remains a problem in all communities where COVID does surface from time to time including in our area. You will hear me speak of many negatives in regards to COVID with recent testing, but we are now back up to 2 COVID positive inpatients. Please continue to protect yourself and your co-workers as compliance to PPE as well as hand washing guidelines has been successful for us.

Please note the following:

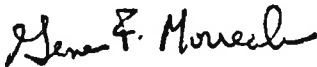
1. PPE- We are slowly getting in small size N95 masks which is a good thing. For the time being, we have been able to replace what we are utilizing but have not been able to build an inventory yet of those N95's. Our purchasing service continues to look for any opportunities to purchase N95 masks and has had some success of late. Please continue with your efforts to protect our current inventory of important PPE.
2. Hand Sanitizers- There has been a significant run nationwide on alcohol based hand sanitizers which has resulted in it now being in short supply. Although we are continuing to order the alcohol based sanitizers, it is not coming in at the same rate that we are using it. Therefore, we have purchased a different, non-alcohol based hand sanitizer to be used within the hospital. Although this newer type hand sanitizer is non-alcohol based, it still provides cleaning protection that we require. Please note, there remains no shortage of soap and water and as has been communicated by both the CDC and the NYS DOH, use of soap and water is preferred in ensuring that you are cleaning your hands appropriately from the COVID virus as well as any other viruses.
3. Flu Season- Already the literature contains information that we may not have an adequate flu testing supply for this upcoming flu season. This is due in part to manufacturers of those test kits focusing their attention on manufacturing COVID testing kits which are different than the flu testing kits. In addition, many providers during flu season recognize the symptoms of flu and therefore, did not readily order a flu test. Rather, diagnosed the flu and provided you with the necessary care requirements as the flu ran its course. Now with COVID and flu viruses being present during one season, testing requirements will be more important. We continue to secure the necessary kits for testing for COVID and have been working to secure testing kits for the flu virus. It is just another curve ball thrown our way that we will need to deal with during this upcoming flu season.
4. Hospital Gym- Although the Governor has given permission for gyms to re-open, the many restrictions placed on gyms has made it difficult for us at this time to open up our campus based

gym. We will continue to keep it closed for the foreseeable future until such time that we feel we can safely accommodate users of the gym.

5. Test Turn-Around Time- We continue to see fluctuation in the test turn-around time with Quest. We had been experiencing relatively short turn-around times (2-3 days) but today we are back up to 5 and 6 days getting results back. Please be assured that we are constantly communicating with Quest to ensure that they focus on our test results and that they provide those to us in a timely basis. In the meantime, for those patients presenting for elective surgery where their Quest results are not back, we are utilizing our rapid testing to ensure that they are COVID negative prior to presenting for care. We continue to use rapid testing for all admissions as well as employees returning from vacation in states that would require them to normally quarantine for 14 days.
6. Community COVID Testing- We are going to open up appointments in our testing circle on Mondays only for individuals who require testing who are not necessarily part of our network of services. For example, school aged children returning to school or college students returning to campuses who require a test prior to returning. This would be only on Mondays and by appointment only. We will communicate that via social media, our website as well as a press release. The remainder of the week is pretty well filled with individuals needing testing prior to elective procedures as well as those who were seen in one of our practices and are tested because of symptoms or concerns of their provider.
7. COVID Testing Results- We currently have 2 COVID positive inpatients. These were individuals who tested positive as outpatients but returned days later symptomatic, requiring admission. We have tested 8,585 individuals, 8,314 negative, 207 positive with 60 pending. We received 48 tests, either rapid or Quest and all were negative. We remain at 3 hospital COVID 19 deaths. 0 positive COVID in our ECF.

We are preparing for what could be a spike in COVID as well as a potential flu outbreak. This includes developing an emergency response plan that addresses how we will manage in the event of significant increase in patients requiring care. Our goal remains to be ready for what comes our way so that we can serve our community members as well as keep our staff safe while providing that care.

With Sincerest Gratitude,



Gene F. Morreale