



Oneida Health
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August 27, 2020

Dear Fellow Employee,

The news continues to be good in regards to controlling the COVID pandemic in NYS. As the Governor reported yesterday, we are in day 179 of the pandemic. 71,000 COVID tests were performed in NYS yesterday. Our infection rate is currently at .79% statewide. We had 3 deaths in the state yesterday with 492 individuals hospitalized and 54 intubated. The one caution remains Western NY whose rate is 1.4%. All in all, positive news as we continue to open up and are not experiencing a significant rise in infection rates.

Please note the following:

1. Return to School- As a quick reminder, please ensure that you are discussing with your manager your thoughts regarding any responsibilities you may have in regards to school aged children once schools open up. It is good that we put together a plan early on so as to avoid issues or confusion when circumstances require action on your part.
2. COVID Testing Results- We are now at 8,790 individuals tested, 8,521 negative, 207 positive and 58 pending. We continue with 3 hospital deaths. Currently we have 1 COVID positive patient in the hospital, the other being discharged. We received 144 test results yesterday, all negative. The majority (i.e. 99) were ECF staff. The ECF remains COVID free and hopefully that will continue.
3. Visitors- We now have visitors in the hospital during certain times as well as in the ECF. I am hearing that everything seems to be working well and that the visitors are cooperating and following our guidelines. A reminder that adhering to the guidelines for visitors remains important as our obligation continues to protect our staff as well as our patients and residents. Any failures to abide by our guidelines should be reported immediately to your manager. We are now planning on allowing one visitor per ED patient. This would be 24 hours/day. Working on rolling this out with security and ED staff.
4. PPE- We are continuing to see some improvements in our ability to secure necessary PPE. On the sanitizer front, we will be receiving dispenser stands with alcohol based sanitizer for those stands. Those will be placed throughout the organization and we will use that as our main means of dispensing alcohol based sanitizer. We are also getting the non-alcohol based sanitizer in and we will distribute those and use that as appropriate. Again, soap and water is the gold standard for reducing the spread of COVID virus infection. We also received a number of alternate, flat fold N95 masks which passed the fit testing so those will be allocated. I am told they are more comfortable than the original 3M N95 masks. We have also received some extra shipments of gloves which helps us build up our inventory. We remain low on the glove front with only 7 days supply on hand. Continued vigilance as it pertains to conserving our PPE is necessary and greatly appreciated.

5. NYS Travel Ban- The Governor removed several states from the travel ban including Alaska, Arizona, Delaware, Maryland and Montana. We have had excellent response from our employees who have traveled to those restricted states and scheduling their testing upon return. Thank you for that as it is important that we follow these guidelines.

Thank you for all you continue to do for our patients, our residents and each other.

With Sincerest Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gene F. Morreale". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G" and "M".

Gene F. Morreale