



August 4, 2020

Dear Fellow Employee,

As we continue to battle the COVID 19 pandemic nationally, news in Upstate NY remains positive. The Madison County Health Department has provided us with updated information through July which identifies the COVID cases in our county since the event started back in March. For those of you interested in looking at those graphs, I have included them in today's update as an attachment. The good news is the number of new cases identified in this county are relatively low. I heard on the radio this morning that Onondaga County remains very low with only 3 new cases identified yesterday. Oneida County has not shared much information at this time. The challenge moving forward will be the students coming back to the colleges in our area from all parts of the United States. The colleges do have a plan to test and quarantine students with the goal of identifying any potential positives early on and maintaining control and preventing the spread of the virus in our region.

Please note the following:

1. PPE- We are hoping that tomorrow will be the date that certain N95 masks are shipped to us. Keeping our fingers crossed that will happen so that we can replenish in particular our small blue N95's which are very low in our inventory at this time. We had some success in obtaining regular size N95 masks which will help us but we continue to work on getting the small size. Otherwise, we continue to order as much PPE as possible with the goal of meeting the expectation that we will have a 90 day supply on hand as required by NYS.
2. Ventilators- The State is requiring our submission of the number of ventilators regularly available for patient use. In addition, we had received ventilators from the State several years ago which are in use here. The State is asking all hospitals to provide them with an update on what happened to those ventilators supplied free of charge to hospitals in the state. We are good with our inventory as well as our maintenance records which will be supplied to the Department of Health by Friday.
3. We have now tested 7,156 individuals with 6,812 negative, 194 positive and as of today, we have 146 pending. We remain at 3 COVID hospital deaths. We performed 24 rapid tests yesterday with 0 positives. We currently have 2 inpatients that are COVID positive. The turn-around time for test results sent to Quest remains problematic and concerning is the potential that someone could be positive but not be made aware for 5-6 days after the test. An additional issue is those presenting for elective procedures not getting the test results prior to the procedure resulting in us having to test them again with the rapid testing kits available in house. Looking back several days at the daily testing results, we did have 1 ED patient positive on July 31, and on August 3 we identified 2 positive ED patients, 2 positive practice patients and 1 of our inpatients remained positive. These results indicate that the COVID virus remains in our region albeit in low numbers.

This concludes today's update. As a reminder, we need to continue doing what we have been doing in regards to protecting ourselves, our co-workers as well as our patients and residents. It is working and if we remain vigilant, there is no reason it won't continue to protect us from this virus.

I appreciate very much all of the good work that is going into the care of our patients and residents. Thank you and stay well.

With Sincerest Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gene F. Morreale". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Gene F. Morreale