



August 6, 2020

Dear Fellow Employee,

We continue to see several positive COVID patients within our network of services. Some of those positives are due to travel while others were due to family members being positive and the end result being the virus is still active in and around our communities. As we continue to open up as a region including parties, weddings and showers etc. that result in a gathering of a number of people that you may not know or may not know where they have been, it is very important that you do your best as a healthcare worker to protect yourself which hopefully will result in your ability to continue to serve this organization and the patients/residents we are here to care for. I don't think it necessary to remind you but will anyways that social distancing as well as facemask use remain important. Please know that the facemask alone is not adequate protection as your eyes being a method of infection are not protected with a mask. Washing hands often and throughout the day remains a great tool.

Please note the following:

1. PPE- We have ordered KN95 masks and once the vendor receives payment, they will ship those to us. The day has come and gone when we were supposed to receive word of our 3M N95 mask delivery. The vendor through which we buy the 3M masks is still working on identifying a potential delivery date. We have been informed by our major PPE vendor that they will need to pass along price increases as that is being sought by the manufacturer. Currently that will result in our increasing costs for PPE by another \$5,000 per month.
2. Wearing of PPE- I cannot stress enough the importance of wearing your PPE properly while at work. The face shields are designed to provide you with optimum protection so please wear those when engaging in patient care and wear them properly so that you are protecting your face exposure as well as exposure to your mask.
3. Results Turnaround Time-As you may be aware from hearing the national news, the test turnaround time continues to be problematic. We use Quest for our send out testing and what you will read in the next item is that we have a number of tests pending that are older than 5 days. This has resulted in our having to do rapid testing on procedure patients on the morning of their procedure in order to have a negative result documented. We are continuing to work with Quest to improve the turnaround time and focus on those patients who present that are symptomatic as well as the elective procedure cases. Some day in the near future we may be able to revert to 100% rapid testing for our patients but those test kits today are not plentiful enough to operationalize that.
4. COVID 19 Results- We have tested through August 6, 7,389 individuals, 6,900 negative, 197 positive and we currently have 288 pending. Of the pending, 159 are ECF staff, 26 are practice patients and 103 are elective procedure patients. We are back up to 2 COVID positive inpatients.

We did do 31 rapid tests on August 5 with 2 positives, 1 from the ED and the other was an elective procedure individual.

5. Travel Restrictions- The Governor had announced earlier this week that Rhode Island has been added to the travel restrictions and has removed from the list Washington, DC and Delaware. As a reminder, if traveling to any one of these locations or if you have any concerns that you were exposed to someone from those locations, please do not hesitate to reach out of the Employee Health Office.

As a reminder, we continue to add information to the Employee COVID Resource page found on our intranet. Please feel free to check that out from time to time to see if there is anything new that can possibly help you and your family during these challenging times.

My thanks to all of you for the wonderful work you do each and every day.

With Sincerest Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gene F. Morreale". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gene F. Morreale