



December 10, 2020

Dear Fellow Employees,

As a follow up to yesterday's update, the call that I participated in with the Governor was more or less a communication that the DOH considers the pandemic a serious problem and that we should expect to see a continued spike in cases through January. The forecast remains dismal in that the holiday season will continue to create further opportunity for spread of the virus which will in the end impact our community members.

There are several webinars scheduled for today regarding the disbursement of the Pfizer vaccine to the Central New York area. As you may have seen, CNY will receive a total of 6400 vaccines and the Mohawk Valley will receive 4200 vaccines with the initial shipment. All nursing home residents are expected to be vaccinated with the first batch of vaccines which will be administered through a Federal program partnering with Walgreens and CVS. Staff members of healthcare facilities will begin to be vaccinated on a rolling basis and that will be determined upon receipt of future batches of the vaccine. I will be participating in a call today and as I learn more regarding the vaccine, the consent process, etc, I will be sure to share that with you.

Please note the following:

1. COVID Positives- We currently have 15 COVID positive inpatients. We now have 12 COVID positive residents at the ECF. We had 2 COVID deaths and our total number of deaths since the start of the pandemic is now 10.
2. COVID 19 Update- We received 89 rapid test results yesterday, 18 of which were positive. We also received 189 results from Quest with 29 positive. There were no new employees testing positive with these results. We currently have 397 tests pending out to Quest, the majority of those being for ECF staff and residents.
3. Staffing- We are on alert for staffing throughout the organization due to the stress of current patient acuity and volume. We are taking steps to reduce elective care at this time understanding that we must support the emergent and acute care requirements of our patients as well as our many residents at the ECF. We will work carefully balance elective care versus the needs of our acute and long term care population to ensure that we are doing the right thing from a staffing perspective. This will be a key management focus as we move forward through this pandemic, understanding that more positives may well be coming our way.

The challenges we face are not insurmountable as long as we properly prepare and plan for them. I promise to work with our COVID leadership task force to review everything we are doing on a daily basis to ensure that we are doing what is right for our patients, residents and staff.

Once again, please accept my appreciation for all that you do each and every day for our patients, 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 long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gene F. Morreale