



December 15, 2020

Dear Fellow Employee,

We continue to prepare for the receipt of the COVID vaccine so that we are sure to roll it out quickly and administer to those who are interested in receiving. For now, I ask that you review the vaccine consent form as well as the article attached to today's update. The article was written by the Advisory Board Research Company which we are a member of. I think it is well done and easy to follow. Additional information will be provided once we know which vaccine we will receive and the initial quantity of the vaccine.

Please be aware of the following:

1. Elective Surgery/Endoscopy – we have determined that we can continue to provide elective procedures at this time as we have not hit the threshold identified by the DOH where we need to stop providing elective procedures. We have decided to reduce the volume of cases per day in both the OR and Endoscopy so that we can provide staff in those areas with necessary education in the event that a large spike in cases occurs after this Holiday season. DOH regulations require us to increase bed/care capacity to respond to increased demand caused by increase of infections. We can only do that if staff from OR/PACU/Endo are able to help staff beds. Hence, the preparation/education now for those staff. We have a surge plan that identifies where we will add beds and how we will work together to staff them. This is a requirement of all hospitals in N.Y. State. The reduction in OR and Endo cases will start on Monday, 12/21 and will continue for the foreseeable future.
2. Madison County – on a call with the county this morning, we were informed that the County has averaged 49 new COVID positives per day for the last 7 days. If you have been following our numbers, we are generating through our testing, a good majority of the County wide cases. As you know, Oneida County volume is such that it is now a Yellow Zone. If the numbers continue in Madison, it will result in Madison also being designated as a yellow zone. Time will tell.
3. Vaccine – we have been informed that the Pfizer COVID vaccine has been sent to the HUB hospitals in the CNY area. This hospital is not a HUB hospital but having said that, a portion of the vaccines received by the HUB hospital are identified for Oneida Health staff. I have not been contacted by the HUB hospital as of this time as to the number of vaccines available or our staff. Once I do, we will put our plan in place and offer to high risk department/job roles as defined by the DOH. The one concern is that our staff will need to go to that HUB hospital to receive the vaccine. Once I am informed, I will communicate that information to you.
4. COVID Positives – we currently have 12 positive inpatients and 18 positive ECF residents. We are currently at 11 deaths total due to COVID.
5. COVID Testing - we performed 270 rapid tests yesterday. 33 were positive with 5 of those positives amongst our staff. We received 10 PCR tests from Upstate, 8 negative and 2 know

positives. The Upstate testing is for individuals who we are looking to place in long term care as a negative PCR is required before discharge. We currently have 95 tests pending at Quest.

6. Practices – our outpatient practices are continuing to provide care with much of it occurring via tele-health. We are working with our practice leadership council to determine next steps in regards to providing in person care. As of today, it is still available in all of our practices including Quick Care.

I will close for now letting you know that there is quite a bit of activity taking place at this time within our organization to allow us to respond to any further surge as well as the vaccine program rollout. I thank the team members who are working to make this all happen. I also thank you all for your continuing support and for the safe, quality care you are providing within our many programs. The vaccine is the game changer we have been waiting and hoping for. I hope you are as excited about this prospect as I am!

With Sincerest Gratitude,

Gene F. Morreale
President and CEO