



Oneida Health
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December 17, 2020

Dear Fellow Employees,

There is no further update today in regards to Oneida Health receiving the COVID 19 vaccine for our work force. In addition, we still are waiting on Walgreens to provide us with additional information on how the vaccine will be made available to our ECF residents and staff.

We have been notified by Upstate Hospital, the vaccine HUB for our region that they have a small number of vaccines set aside for Oneida Health. As a result, we have started a listing of individuals by priority to determine their interest in receiving the vaccine. We will be contacting those individuals who are eligible based upon priority and if interested, to inform them that they will need to travel to the Upstate Community Hospital campus to receive the vaccine. State regulations prohibit Upstate from releasing the vaccine to Oneida Health to administer.

Please note the following:

1. COVID Positives- We currently have 16 COVID positive inpatients. We did have 3 COVID positive discharges but also 3 new COVID positive admissions. The ECF currently has 18 COVID positive residents. We performed 116 rapid tests yesterday, 22 positive, the majority being from the practices. We received 10 PCR results from Upstate with 8 negative and 2 known positives. We received 13 results from Quest yesterday, all negative. We currently have 225 pending tests out to Quest.
2. Surge Capacity- The DOH is requiring a daily update as to our ability to increase capacity to care for inpatients both in the ICU as well as the Medical/Surgical Unit. The expectation is that we surge at least by 15% more than our current bed capacity. We are working on that plan to ensure that we are compliant. The major concern and the fear of the Health Department is the post holiday spike in cases. We will need to bring unused beds in our ECF over to the hospital in order to increase bed capacity on this end. That process will take place over the next several days. We are also working on a surge capacity staffing plan.
3. Snow Storm- Although not necessarily related to COVID, I do want to thank the many staff who trudged through a significant amount of snow to get in to work today to be here for our patients and residents. We are aware that snow removal was not up to our usual par and that is being addressed with our snow removal vendor. We knew the storm was coming so there really is not a good excuse as to why we were not able to be in better shape this morning when staff arrived. We will do our best to correct that problem moving forward. Again, thank you to the many of you who traveled to work through this snow storm.

Not much more to communicate today. Please feel free to look back at earlier updates that are available on the Employee Resource page. Please share this correspondence with those who may not have access to email.

Please accept my continued appreciation for all you are doing during this challenging time.

Sincerely,
Sheryl M. Murrell