



Oneida Health
exceptional care... always

December 22, 2020

Dear Fellow Employees,

There remains opportunity for those of you interested in receiving the Pfizer vaccine through Upstate to accomplish that. Jessica Yoxall, our Quality Director has been coordinating the effort and if you are interested in signing up, there are plenty of appointment times available. Please email Jessica at jyoxall@oneidahealthcare.org and she will communicate with you next steps.

In regards to Oneida Health receiving the vaccine for distribution onsite, we have been informed that we will receive the Moderna vaccine any day now. Our plan at this time is to start offering a vaccine program beginning on Monday December 28 for employees as well as non-employees deemed to be eligible to receive this initial distribution of that vaccine. We are finalizing the plans that will allow you to schedule an appointment, receive the necessary information needed to consent to the vaccine and then arrive at our vaccine center and receive the vaccine in an efficient way. Our plan is to provide you with this information no later than this Thursday. Sooner if possible.

Please note the following:

1. COVID Census- We currently have 16 COVID positive inpatients and 18 COVID positive residents in our ECF. We performed 123 rapid tests yesterday, 29 of those were positive, the majority being practice patients. 3 employees tested positive yesterday. We also received 8 results from Quest yesterday with 3 COVID positive individuals from our practices. We now have 159 pending test out to Quest, the majority being ECF residents.
2. Testing Center- Our testing center continues to test approximately 100 individuals per day. The center will be closed on Friday December 25. It will reopen again on Monday December 28. There will be testing available on December 24.
3. Madison County- In a call with Madison County this morning, they reported seeing on average 40 new COVID positives per day. This is down from the previous week where they were averaging 50 new COVID positives per day. The concern now is the post holiday spike.
4. ECF- The Walgreens vaccination individual has been in contact with our ECF and the hope is to start providing the vaccine to residents and staff in the ECF beginning next week. No firm date has been given but they are working on rolling this out. As soon as a date is provided, this will be communicated to all the ECF staff, residents and family members.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the many staff who have worked additional hours to help us manage the higher census that we have seen during the post Thanksgiving spike period. We also have a number of people in the nursing home who worked more hours due to the number of staff who have either tested positive or needed to quarantine per state regulation. The teamwork is alive and well at

Oneida Health and I again want to thank everyone for jumping in and helping. We will get through this and know that we have done a wonderful job for our patients, residents and the community we serve.

With Sincerest Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gene F. Morreale", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gene F. Morreale