



December 28, 2020

Dear Fellow Employees,

I will start today's update with some good news. We have vaccinated just over 500 employees and Medical Staff members. We are down to our last vial of the Moderna vaccine. That means there are 10 vaccines available for anyone who has not had a chance to receive the vaccine. If you are interested, please send an email to Andrea Narrow at anarrow@oneidahealthcare.org and we will schedule a time for you to receive a vaccine from what we have left of our current allocation of vaccines.

Please note the following:

1. COVID Positives- We are currently down to 10 total COVID positive inpatients. We are also down to 7 COVID positive ECF residents. We had over the last few days 3 additional deaths and now are up to a total of 15 deaths due to the COVID virus. We currently have very few pending tests out which is good news. In a call with regional hospital CEOs today, it appears that the larger hospitals are overwhelmed with COVID positive patients. They are also experiencing an increased demand for medical/surgical beds. Staffing appears to be the biggest problem in the region. Many of the staffing deficiencies are due to staff becoming COVID positive or needing to quarantine. What is concerning is that if this trend continues and then an additional increase due to the post holiday spike would create significant havoc within those institutions. Oneida Health is currently managing but we are also impacted by staffing and are not in a position to offer a considerable amount of help to the larger hospitals at this time. We will continue to do all we can to care for patients in our community and when appropriate offer assistance to the larger institutions.
2. Vaccine Center- As I mentioned last week, we are prepared to start vaccinating individuals identified by the State as part of the Phase 1A vaccination program. This includes first responders in medical roles such as Emergency Medical Service providers, Medical Examiners and Coroners, Funeral Home employees and persons living in and working in long term care facilities including congregate settings overseen by OPWDD, OMH and OASAS. We have had over 100 of those individuals schedule to be vaccinated starting tomorrow. Just a reminder that this vaccination center is not open to the general public as the State is determining how to roll out the vaccine program to essential workers until such time that the vaccine is more readily available to provide to others. I am sorry that we are not able to meet the needs of your spouse and family members. I look forward to the day that we can provide a vaccine program to the general public.
3. PPE- We continue to be in reasonably good shape with our PPE inventory and are ready in the event there is a post holiday spike in cases.
4. Elective Procedures- Although we have reduced the amount of elective procedures performed here, I am afraid that in the near future, we will be required to close down all elective

procedures. That has already happened in regions of the State so if the demand on hospital beds continues as is, there is no doubt that the Governor and the State DOH will require us to shut all elective procedures down. In the meantime, with our reduced elective procedure numbers, we are preparing staff to assist in areas where demand is high and staffing is not adequate.

There appears to be many issues Statewide that we need to stay on top of. As those become known to me, I will be sure to communicate to all of you. In the meantime, please continue to all you can protect yourselves from this virus.

Thank you for being here and helping us meet the demands of our patients and residents.

With Sincerest Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gene F. Morreale".

Gene F. Morreale