



**Oneida Health**  
*exceptional care... always*

February 10, 2021

Dear Fellow Employees,

We have first doses of the Moderna vaccine that were provided to us this week to administer to Oneida Health employees who wish to receive the vaccine. If you have not already done so, please reach out to Andrea Narrow at [anarrow@oneidahealthcare.org](mailto:anarrow@oneidahealthcare.org) as soon as possible so that we can secure a dose for administration to you. I do not believe we will be receiving any additional doses of vaccine here at Oneida Health for employees moving forward. The focus will then be to roll out the vaccination program to the elderly as well as the overall community members as the vaccine numbers increase over the summer months.

Please be aware of the following:

1. Employee Vaccine Program- We have openings for employees to be vaccinated on Friday morning from 7am-9am. Doses will be administered in the Medical Library Conference Room located on the first floor of the hospital. You must register in advance with Andrea Narrow to reserve your spot. If you had previously indicated your interest in receiving the vaccine, you should have already been contacted by her to reserve a date/time for your vaccine.
2. 65 Years of Age and Over with Co-Morbidities- Our Primary Care Practices have been identifying individuals in their practices who are eligible to receive the vaccine based upon the State's most current guidelines. These individuals have specific co-morbidities that have been listed by the State. The State's goal is to prioritize this population above all other 65 and older individuals as they are more susceptible to negative outcomes due to their co-morbid condition. Administration of vaccines for this population will be coordinated by the County Health Departments (i.e. Madison and Oneida County). The letter that we will be sending out from our practices will include the fact that the individual receiving the letter has been determined to be eligible and what the diagnosis is that makes them eligible which is required by the County Health Department. They in turn will be instructed to go to appropriate websites or call the COVID hotline to determine when the vaccine would be available for them.
3. Elective Procedures- Questions have been raised by certain providers whether anyone who continues to test positive without symptoms can be eligible to have elective surgery? The answer remains no at this time. State guidelines are very clear in that we must receive a negative COVID test result prior to allowing a person to receive an elective procedure. This again only applies to electives and those patients that are deemed urgent or emergent will be approached differently.
4. COVID Positive Update- We currently have 3 COVID positive inpatients and we now have 0 COVID positive ECF residents. We performed 181 rapid tests yesterday, 4 being positive. One of the positives was an employee. We received 12 PCR tests back from AEGIS with 0 positives. We remain at 18 deaths since the start of the pandemic back in March 2020.

We continue to prepare internally in the event that the new strains of the virus causes any type of spike in our region. Our PPE supply remains strong and we will maintain an adequate inventory to ensure staff remain protected through use of PPE. Due to the decrease in overall census, we are opening up more slots for elective surgical procedure cases. This will continue to occur through the month of February.

Please share any questions or concerns you have with me. Thank you for all you do for our patients, residents and each other.

With Sincerest Gratitude,

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

Gene F. Morreale