



Oneida Health
exceptional care... always

February 12, 2021

Dear Fellow Employees,

I am pleased to provide you with information regarding the continued decrease we are seeing in COVID positive individuals at our testing center as well as our ED. We did 76 rapid tests yesterday and only 1 was positive which was already known as positive. We did 49 PCR tests, all negative. We did 11 Abbott tests and all 11 were negative. We currently have 2 COVID positive inpatients and 0 COVID positive ECF residents.

There has been much in the media regarding nursing home deaths in NYS that is creating a crisis for the Governor and the DOH. For your information, we have had a total of 29 ECF residents who tested positive since the start of the pandemic. 27 have fully recovered and 2 have expired. We worked very hard to keep the virus out of the facility but as you know, once it does enter it is very difficult to stop the spread. With that said, we have succeeded getting back to 0 positives in the ECF and we will continue to do all we can to keep the spread of virus as best we can not only out of the ECF, but out of any of our areas where we provide direct patient care. The continued utilization of PPE and following isolation and handwashing guidelines will help us be successful. Please do your part.

There still remains time for any employees to receive the vaccine. We held vaccine clinics for employees yesterday and again this morning. We will have some initial dose vaccine left and will be offering it next Tuesday at the vaccine center. If interested in receiving it next Tuesday at the vaccine center, please contact Andrea Narrow and she will send you the link to register. This is for Oneida Health employees and Medical Staff members as well as healthcare workers who work in community settings (i.e. physician offices, home care, etc.)

The CDC on Wednesday said asymptomatic individuals who have received both shots of one of the two currently approved vaccines (Pfizer or Moderna) and have had at least 2 weeks pass since the second injection, are no longer required to quarantine if they come into contact with a COVID positive person. That is as long as no more than 90 days has passed since the second shot. The State is agreeable to this approach and again reminded us that we need to continue to wear a mask and socially distance until enough people have been vaccinated to reach herd immunity. That most probably won't happen until this summer.

Please feel free to direct any questions to my attention. Your continued support of our effort to win the battle against this virus is greatly appreciated. Thank you and please keep up the great work.

With Sincerest Gratitude,

Gene F. Morreale