



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

February 24, 2021

Dear Fellow Employees,

While we enjoyed a couple of days without COVID positives in the hospital as well as in the ECF, the one hospital admission from yesterday now brings us to 1 COVID positive inpatient. The good news is we received 207 results yesterday with only 1 positive. This remains good news in light of where we are in the pandemic as well as the fact that more vaccines are getting into arms which will no doubt help us moving forward.

Please be aware of the following:

1. PPE- Due in part to our reduced usage of PPE due to a smaller number of COVID positive individuals, our PPE inventory is in really good shape at this time. Once again, thank you all for helping us conserve where feasible and help get us through some very difficult times.
2. PCR Testing- We are transitioning as quickly as possible to Quest for PCR testing. This is away from using AEGIS at this time. Your office should have been equipped with the Quest PCR kits, so please use those and not the AEGIS kits at this time. Any questions regarding this matter please direct to my attention.
3. PCR vs. Rapid Testing at the Testing Center- Questions have been raised regarding whether we will still perform PCR testing at the testing center? The answer is yes. We have ability to perform both at this time. If you have a patient you are sending to the testing center and prefer a PCR test be performed, please submit your order that way and ensure that you schedule that patient for the testing at least 4 business days before their scheduled procedure. A rapid test, if requested should be scheduled within 2 days of their scheduled procedure. This time period is important to ensure that we can adequately turn around the test results so there are no delays on the day of the procedure. Feel free to direct any questions you have regarding this directly to the testing center. Their phone number is 315-361-2999.
4. Long Term Care Visitation- As you may have read, the Governor and the DOH are easing restrictions somewhat on allowing in-person visitation in nursing homes in the State. This is not a simple open visitation process. Rather, there are a number of restrictions that remain in place including the number of individuals that can visit per day. In addition, a visitor must have a negative COVID test performed within 72 hours of their visit. Even though the majority of our residents have been vaccinated, these necessary precautions remain important and will be followed by our organization for the foreseeable future. Communication from the ECF will be sent out to family members to inform them of the process that needs to be followed in the event a visitation is planned. We continue with window visits through our heated hut at the ECF as well as iPad visits.

Although we have taken great strides forward in battling this pandemic, it remains a pandemic and precautions need to be continued and adhered to. Any employee who now wishes to receive the vaccine, please contact the Employee Health office and inform them of such. We will then determine how to provide you with information on how to secure that vaccine.

Thank you all for your continued efforts to provide high quality, safe care.

With Sincerest Gratitude,



Gene F. Morreale