



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

January 11, 2021

Dear Fellow Employees,

As you may have read, the Governor has announced expansion to group 1B of individuals who will now be eligible to receive their initial dose of the COVID 19 vaccine. We have received a number of questions from our employees regarding when we will be offering this to those now eligible. As I mentioned in my brief update on Sunday, we have only 130 doses of the COVID vaccine available for distribution and have already reached out to a good number of individuals in the 1B category to allow them to schedule. We are awaiting word from the State on when our next shipment of the vaccine will be available. In the meantime, if you know someone who is eligible and is looking to receive the vaccine, please have them go to the State COVID vaccination website to find out who nearby has a supply of vaccine for distribution. I understand Madison County has received some additional vaccines and may have slots available for individuals to register for.

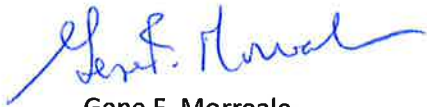
Please note the following:

1. We currently have 12 COVID positive inpatients and 4 COVID positive ECF residents. We performed 20 rapid tests yesterday with 3 positive and received 22 results from AEGIS with 2 positive. Our COVID testing center remains open and is providing COVID testing with physician's orders for symptomatic patients as well as for elective procedure scheduled patients.
2. COVID Regional Numbers- Each day I participate in a call with the regional hospital CEOs to review the total number of COVID positive cases in hospitals. Last week we were spiking at an alarming rate but over the weekend saw a reduction in numbers being admitted to hospitals. Not sure if this is the calm before the storm (i.e. post holiday spike) or whether this is the potential downward trend of COVID positive individuals requiring hospitalization? It is still out there in our community and it is important that you as healthcare personnel lead by example and ensure that you protect yourself not only here at work but after work hours. Each and every one of you is important and your health allows you continue to serve our patients and residents, and that is key. Again, please protect yourself from this virus.
3. Return to Work- It is important that you notify the Infection Control Office in the event that you are not feeling well and you are scheduled to work. Also, contact them if you are returning from travel and need to be tested before being allowed to return to work. And finally if you are recovering from COVID or are completing your quarantine period, the Infection Control Office must be notified. Please contact the Infection Control Office at 315-361-2907 or [vmilazzo@oneidahealthcare.org](mailto:vmilazzo@oneidahealthcare.org). By following this policy, it allows us to better perform necessary testing and to better meet your needs. Thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

This week your manager will receive an email containing the names of individuals eligible for their second dose of the vaccine. The first group of our employees received their initial dose on December 23 or 24. As an example, they will receive their second dose between January 19-21. The email being sent to your manager will identify you as the person requiring a second dose and will also identify when you should present for that second dose. The location of the second dose will most probably be in the hospital's Medical Library Conference Room on the first floor. That will be confirmed as we get closer to the second dose date.

Please feel free to direct any questions you may have regarding the vaccination program or the testing program. Thank you so much for continuing to help us through this very challenging pandemic.

With Sincerest Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gene F. Morreale". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Gene F. Morreale