



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

January 18, 2021

Dear Fellow Employees,

I am excited to report that vaccinations begin tomorrow for our Medical Staff and employees who received their initial dose on December 23<sup>rd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup>. We have vaccine administration sessions planned for Tuesday the 19<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup> and Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup> from 7am-11am. For those of you eligible to receive your second dose during this week, you should have been contacted and scheduled for that. In the event that you have not, I would appreciate it if you would reach out to Jackie Dickerson at [jdickerson@oneidahealthcare.org](mailto:jdickerson@oneidahealthcare.org) and inform her of when you plan on coming to be vaccinated. Again, this is the second dose for those who received their initial dose on December 23<sup>rd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup>.

Please note the following:

1. Travel Requirements- Questions have been raised regarding what the current requirements are upon returning from travel. Asymptomatic staff who have traveled to a non-contiguous state or a country with CDC level 2 or higher risk assessment may return to work upon their arrival in NYS, but must receive a diagnostic test within 24 hours of arrival and on the 4<sup>th</sup> day after return. To arrange for this testing here, please contact the Infection Control Office at 315-361-2907 in advance of your scheduled return date so that you can be registered and scheduled to be tested. This requirement remains a part of the DOH return to work regulations.
2. Additional Vaccines- As many of you are wondering, the current situation here at Oneida is we have no new vaccines to administer. To our knowledge, there are no vaccines available in all of Madison County at this time. There remains a small supply of vaccine available in Oneida and Onondaga Counties that are available through their vaccination center program. Although we have requested additional vaccine, we have not received any communications at this time as to when we may expect a new shipment of the Moderna vaccine to provide to those still on the 1A and 1B list and potentially to community members. We continue to coordinate our efforts with the Madison County Health Department.
3. Already Vaccinated Elsewhere- To employees and Medical Staff, if you received your vaccine elsewhere (i.e. Upstate, Rome, etc.) please inform the Employee Health Office at 315-361-2907. We are required to report numbers of our organization who were vaccinated or declined the vaccine.
4. COVID Update- We currently have 10 COVID positive inpatients and we remain at 4 COVID positive ECF residents. We performed 26 rapid tests with 1 positive and 24 PCR results were received with 5 positives. As stated in my update last week, the numbers in the region remain flat in regards to new cases of COVID which is a positive in regards to this virus. Please continue to do all you can to protect yourself, your co-workers and our patients and residents by following our PPE guidelines day in and day out.

5. Vaccine Center- We will soon be reaching out to individuals who were vaccinated through our vaccine center. They will receive a link to schedule themselves to receive their second dose of the Moderna vaccine. We are looking for individuals to help staff the Vaccine Center. Both vaccinators as well as helpers are needed. If you know of someone who is interested in helping us out, please contact Andrea Narrow at [anarrow@oneidahealthcare.org](mailto:anarrow@oneidahealthcare.org) and she will coordinate with those who staff the center.
  
6. PPE- Our PPE inventory remains solid at this time and we continue to order and receive necessary PPE supplies to keep our inventory at the appropriate levels. Thank you once again for doing all you can to conserve this valuable resource.

As we continue to monitor for any post-holiday spike of COVID infections, we are also now starting to evaluate the ability to open up our scheduling of elective procedures. This would include both elective inpatient as well as elective outpatient procedures. More to come as we close out the month of January which is really the time period where the spike, if it were to occur, would happen.

Thank you all for your continued diligence in regards to protecting all from this virus.

With Sincerest Gratitude,



Gene F. Morreale