



January 20, 2021

Dear Fellow Employees,

We have started our second round of vaccines for those staff who were vaccinated initially at Oneida Health. As a reminder, it is very important that you come in when scheduled for your second vaccine and understand that the vaccine must be administered here. You cannot go to another site to receive the second dose. This also includes those who went to Upstate initially for the Pfizer vaccine. They will need to go to Upstate to receive their second dose.

Also, when presenting for your second vaccine, it is important that you bring your vaccination card with you so that it can be updated and you will have a permanent record that you received both shots. This record will prove helpful in the future as many will require proof of vaccination for travel as well as entry into certain businesses or areas. If you have received your first and second dose at Upstate, it is very important that you inform the Employee Health office even if you are not an employee. This is information that the State is collecting and we want to be as accurate as possible to reflect how many of our employees and Medical Staff have been vaccinated. Without proof of your Upstate vaccination, we cannot count you as a receiver of the vaccine.

Please note the following:

1. No New Vaccines- We have not been allocated any new vaccines at this time. We have received our full shipment of vaccines to administer the second dose and have begun that as commented above with the employees and will begin the community administration of the second dose starting next Tuesday. Most of the vaccines being released by the State are now going to each County's Health Department. They in turn will be responsible for determining how to make those vaccines available for phase 1A, phase 1B as well as those 65 years of age and older.
2. COVID Update- We currently have 11 COVID positive inpatients and remain at 4 COVID positive ECF residents. We performed 221 rapid tests yesterday, 16 of which were positive. Three employees were included in the positive numbers. We received 8 results from AEGIS with 2 of those positive. We are currently at 17 deaths due to COVID since the start of the pandemic.
3. PPE- Our burn rate has increased of late and as a result we are ordering additional inventory to maintain the 90 day requirement and the 60 day requirement for the ECF. Currently we are in full compliance. Thank you once again for doing all you can to conserve this very valuable resource.
4. Vaccinated Employees- Questions have been raised as to whether there will be changes in restrictions in regards to those employees who are fully vaccinated? That question has been posed to the DOH and hopefully they will come back with some changes in their quarantine requirements as well as travel restrictions. At this time, all previous guidelines remain in effect.

All questions and concerns are welcome. Please feel free to forward those to my attention. In the meantime, continue doing the great work you are doing each day for our patients, residents and each other.

With Sincerest Gratitude,



Gene F. Morreale