



January 21, 2021

Dear Fellow Employees,

A shout out and thank you to the many staff who have come when scheduled to receive their second dose of the COVID vaccine. As a quick reminder, when you come down for your vaccine, please bring your vaccination card as well as your consent form. By having those two items, we can get you in and out rather quickly.

Please note the following:

1. Declination Form- The DOH continues asking us to document how many of our staff have been vaccinated and how many have declined the vaccine at this time. For those of you who have been vaccinated elsewhere, please let the Employee Health Office know that you were vaccinated. For those of you currently declining the vaccine, please complete the declination form which I have attached to today's update. Just because you complete that form does not mean you would not be eligible sometime in the future if you decide to receive the vaccine. There is room on the form to make any comments regarding your reason for not accepting the vaccine at this time.
2. COVID Positive and Vaccination- A number of questions from staff who received their first vaccine and became COVID positive shortly thereafter as well as those staff who have been COVID positive and are now wondering when they can receive the vaccine? For those of you who have been COVID positive, the current recommendation is that you quarantine for the 14 days and then following that quarantine, 10 days of asymptomatic health makes you eligible to receive either the second dose or your first dose. It is important that for those of you who already received your first dose that you schedule yourself to receive the second dose when you meet the quarantine and asymptomatic waiting period. Once we utilize all our second dose vaccines and have to return any vaccine not utilized per State requirements, you will then need to figure out a way to receive that second dose through the avenues available at that time. Although not 100% positive at this time, it does not appear that the State wants hospitals continued involvement in the vaccine distribution program. Again that has not been formally decided but indications reflect that at this time.
3. COVID Positives- We are down to 9 COVID positive inpatients and 3 COVID positive ECF residents. We performed 70 rapid tests yesterday with 16 positives. We received 96 results from AEGIS with 4 positive. For those keeping track, we have tested 26,150 individuals since the start of the pandemic. 1,677 were positive and 24,330 were negative. We currently have 120 pending with 20 inconclusive results and 17 total deaths.
4. Regional Numbers- On a call today with the CNY regional CEOs, all hospitals appear in relatively good shape in regards to the number of new COVID cases. No one institution is overwhelmed at

this time. In discussions with the Upstate CEO, their Epidemiology Department continues to look at the potential for COVID spikes in the near future. Currently their formula does not show a significant spike at the end of January as was predicted. There is concern though that in March there may be another spike mainly due to new strains and more contagious strains of the COVID virus being out there. I will keep you posted as I learn more about our regional COVID experience.

5. Elective Procedures- With the above news in mind, we are working towards opening up OR blocks as well as Endoscopy blocks as soon as possible. The OR and Endoscopy unit managers will be communicating with the offices in regards to expansion of the block schedules very shortly.

I personally am excited regarding 2021 and the position our organization is in. The impact of the pandemic is still an unknown but with that being said, as the vaccination program rolls out and we move into warmer weather, the hope is that the pandemic will be a much smaller impact on our regular business. In future updates as the COVID information becomes less prominent, I will provide updates on our organizations readiness for this upcoming year.

Please accept my continued appreciation for your excellent work and please keep up that great work.

With Sincerest Gratitude,



Gene F. Morreale