



Oneida Health
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January 22, 2021

Dear Fellow Employees,

We have completed the first week of the second dose vaccination of our employees and I thank you all for your cooperation and support during this week. The process worked extremely well. We are now preparing for next week where we will continue with the employee vaccine process on the first floor of the hospital as well as opening up our outpatient vaccine center for community members. If you are scheduled for next week, please make every effort to attend and as a quick reminder, please bring your consent form and your vaccination card with you.

I have heard back from the Health Department regarding their decision to relax any of the requirements for those staff who have been fully vaccinated. The answer at this time is no. Research still needs to be done on whether those who have been vaccinated can still be infected and/or carry the virus and spread to others. As a result, all guidelines regarding PPE, handwashing etc. need to continue.

Attached to today's update is a link to an article from this morning's Syracuse.com news site quoting our Infectious Disease consultant, Dr. Helen Jacoby regarding the COVID virus and the vaccine's impact. Many questions raised by staff are addressed in this short article. Please review at your leisure and share with others as appropriate.

Our census today is quite high at 86% and we are planning on some discharges and hope that the weekend remains somewhat quiet so that we can recover and be prepared for what comes next week.

Please enjoy the weekend for those of you that are off (go Bills!) For those of you that are working, thank you for being here for our patients and residents.

With Sincerest Gratitude,

Gene F. Morreale