



January 26, 2021

Dear Fellow Employees,

Although we have not been allocated any new doses of the vaccine as of today, we have requested doses for our employees and there is a good chance that those may be allocated to us within the week. Therefore, if you are a new employee who would like to be vaccinated or someone who has changed their mind and now wants to be vaccinated, please notify Andrea Narrow at anarrow@oneidahealthcare.org and provide her with your desire to receive your first dose of the vaccine here. We will formulate that list and once we receive an additional allocation of vaccine, we will immediately reach out to you to schedule your for your vaccination. For those of you still on the fence regarding receiving the vaccination, I encourage you to do your homework regarding the vaccine, speak to your primary care provider and make the decision that you feel is best for you and your family. I have attached a link to today's update from the CDC providing some additional information regarding the vaccine itself and how it works in your body to develop immunity.

Please note the following:

1. PPE- I am pleased to continue to report that our current PPE inventory remains very good and we continue to order new supplies to ensure that we have adequate PPE as the need arises. As I have always communicated, please help us conserve this very valuable supply.
2. Visitor Response Plan- We have received some complaints regarding our current Visitor Response Plan which continues to restrict visitors unless certain criteria are met. I want you to understand that our Visitor Response Plan is designed to comply with current DOH regulations and is consistent with other healthcare organizations in our region. It is important those in the clinical areas do their best to ensure that anxious family members or significant others of our patients are kept informed as to their treatment and care. It is also important in this regard that we maintain the patient's rights to confidentiality and follow our current HIPAA guidelines. Questions regarding this matter are always welcome. I have attached to today's update our existing Visitor Response Plan which I ask you to review and keep available in the event there are questions.
3. Community Vaccination Program- Today we began second dose administration to Phase 1A and 1B community members who had received their initial dose with us. These next 2 days will be very busy in our vaccination center building. Those of you that have volunteered to assist by being a greeter or helper, please accept my appreciation for that. This is a new service that we are providing and we did not have adequate time to hire and train staff to work there. Therefore, using our existing staff for coverage has worked out very well and cost effectively.
4. COVID Positive Update- We currently have 9 COVID positive inpatients and remain at 3 COVID positive ECF residents. These are residents who were infected over a month ago. We have had

no new ECF COVID positives over the last 2 weeks. We performed 112 rapid tests yesterday with 16 of those positive. The ECF is beginning to schedule window visits which will hopefully begin next week allowing family members to see and speak to their loved one in a sheltered area. Our COVID testing center remains busy and continues to meet the needs for symptomatic individuals as well as those scheduled for elective procedures. As a reminder, a physician's order is required for testing in our testing center.

As you can see from the above numbers, COVID infections remain a threat in our community and to each of you as well as your family members. Continuing to follow closely the PPE guidelines until the numbers decrease significantly is important and your cooperation is requested and appreciated.

I look forward to the end of this crazy pandemic. In the meantime, I do recognize the fact that we have a solid workforce and provider network that understands how to do it right.

With Sincerest Gratitude,



Gene F. Morreale