



**Oneida Health**  
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January 28, 2021

Dear Fellow Employees,

Some very good news in regards to our current hospital and nursing home COVID positive population. We are now down to 5 COVID positive inpatients and 2 COVID positive ECF residents. This is due to discharges in regards to hospitalized patients and due to a positive resident becoming negative. This trend is not only being observed in CNY, but also nationally with a decrease in COVID positive patients being admitted to hospitals. With this in mind, please keep your guard up as the communications from Washington as well as the CDC are focused on more contagious variants of the COVID 19 virus springing up throughout the country. Without a mass vaccination program completed, the more contagious virus could easily spark a spike in cases impacting our community members as well as the need for hospital care.

Please note the following:

1. Vaccine Program- We completed the first round of the community vaccine for individuals in the Phase 1B group who received their initial dose through Oneida Health. That will continue next week on Tuesday and Wednesday in the vaccine center. In the meantime, we are gathering names of employees as well as any others in the Phase 1A category that now desire to receive the vaccine. We have requested additional first dose vaccines and the thought is that we may receive those in the very near future. Therefore the list will allow us to easily reach out to those individuals to receive the vaccine. If interested, please notify Andrea Narrow at [anarrow@oneidahealthcare.org](mailto:anarrow@oneidahealthcare.org) and she will add you to the pending vaccine list.
2. Vaccine Received Elsewhere- As I have mentioned in a number of different updates, we are obligated to provide the DOH with the number of our employees who have received the COVID 19 vaccine whether given here or given at an outside location. For members of the Medical Staff, this is also very important. Please communicate to our Employee Health Office that you received the vaccine so that we can count those numbers in our tally to the State. This is data that the State is analyzing and will help them in their efforts in the future in regards to how best to protect healthcare workers and others in the Phase 1A/1B category as well as determine the extent of declinations. The declination form should also be completed and returned to the Employee Health Office for documentation purposes.
3. COVID Positives- We performed 71 rapid tests yesterday with 6 positive. We received 44 PCR results back from AEGIS with 3 positives. I am pleased to report that test result turn-around time with our new vendor AEGIS has been excellent and they have maintained a 48 hour turn-around time from the time they receive the specimen. This is much better than the 5-7 days we were experiencing with the former vendor we utilized.

We continue to do very well in regards to our management of our obligations during this pandemic. We have learned much and adapted where necessary to ensure that we continue to be there for our community members who seek care through us. Please be proud of all you have accomplished to date and lets work together to continue this excellent response.

With Sincerest Gratitude,



Gene F. Morreale