



**Oneida Health**  
*exceptional care... always*

January 29, 2021

Dear Fellow Employees,

A couple of items I wanted to be sure to communicate today and my goal is to keep this update brief.

Please note the following:

1. Ordering COVID and Flu Testing- The Department of Health now requires that all patients that are being tested for COVID due to symptoms should also be tested for the flu. Flu testing is not required for patients who are being screened for COVID due to other reasons such as admission (not due to acute illness), pre-procedure and asymptomatic but high risk exposure (this indication should be limited). Please ensure that we follow this requirement when you place orders for your patients or those referred to our testing center.
2. Vaccinations- A number of individuals who received the vaccine are now questioning whether they will be positive when they have to be tested for COVID. For example, those presenting for pre-procedure testing. A link has been provided in this update cover memo which is from the CDC which answers that question quite nicely. In a short response, the answer is no. The one caveat is that if you have an antibody test that might possibly come back positive indicating that you had a previous infection and you may have some level of protection against the virus. That is really the goal of the vaccine. Please read the attached link at your convenience as it has many good responses to questions being asked by those being vaccinated.
3. Vaccines- We still have not received word from the DOH as to when we may receive another shipment of vaccine for initial dose administration. We have requested additional vaccine and I remind you that if you would like to receive that vaccine if and when we receive additional doses, please notify Andrea Narrow at [anarrow@oneidahealthcare.org](mailto:anarrow@oneidahealthcare.org) of your desire to be put on the vaccine list.

In today's call with regional hospital CEOs, the whole region remains under control in regards to the amount of new COVID admissions, which is great. Lets all hope that this trend continues moving forward.

Thank you all again for reading these updates as well as all you are doing for our patient, residents and each other.

With Sincerest Gratitude,

Gene F. Morreale