



Oneida Health
exceptional care... always

January 5, 2021

Dear Fellow Employees,

We are opening up the vaccine center to employees this afternoon as well as tomorrow. The hours are 7am-6pm. No appointment is necessary but please understand that you will be in the center along with community members that are eligible to receive the vaccine and who have signed up to be vaccinated. The busy times at the center are 7-9am, 11:30-1:30pm and 3:30-5pm. If you can avoid going during those times, that would make your wait shorter. In any event, the wait is not that long and the staff at the center have a good process in place to get you through quickly.

Please note the following:

1. ECF Residents- This Thursday, Walgreens Pharmacists and Pharmacy Interns will be at the ECF vaccinating the majority of the residents there. Staff in the ECF can also be vaccinated that day by the Walgreens Pharmacists. This is good news as it is important that we protect our residents from this virus as well as the staff. Looking forward to this process finally occurring.
2. COVID Vaccine Reactions- It is important that if you have a reaction to the vaccine that makes you ill, please ensure that you receive treatment either by contacting your primary care provider or going to the nearest ED. It is also important that you inform the Infection Control Office so that we can report any adverse reactions to the FDA and CDC. You can contact the Infection Control Office at 315-361-2907 or at vmilazzo@oneidahealthcare.org.
3. COVID 19 Update- We currently have 11 COVID positive inpatients. We also continue with 7 COVID positive ECF residents. We performed 128 rapid tests yesterday with 38 positive. 2 of those were new positives for employees. For those keeping track of the overall numbers, we have tested 23,683 individuals, 22,293 negative, 1,202 positive and we currently have 167 pending. We have 19 that were inconclusive which means most probably positive and we have had 15 hospital deaths since the start of the pandemic.

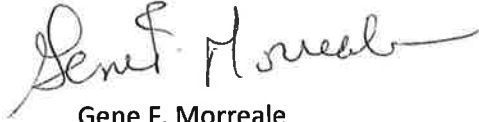
I will once again strongly encourage our employees and Medical Staff to receive the vaccine. We will soon release a video of a number of our physicians talking about the importance of receiving the vaccine and we will share that with you when it is published. That video will also be used to communicate to our community members when the vaccine becomes available for distribution to them.

The Governor is really pushing hospitals to ensure that we are doing all we can to get the vaccine into individuals. He is adamant that failure to vaccinate individuals is a problem for us in eradicating this virus. As I mentioned in a previous update, we will need to notify the DOH of the vaccine that we have remaining and they will then direct us to return that vaccine to them. Future allocations of the vaccine could be negatively impacted if we fail to use all of the vaccine allocated to us. That may just mean it will

be more difficult for any staff who want the vaccine down the road or community members to access the vaccine in our community.

I will close with continued appreciation for all that is going on within our network of services. Our staff and providers have risen to the occasion to go above and beyond in providing care. Thank you so much for that effort.

With Sincerest Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gene F. Morreale". The signature is written in black ink and includes a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Gene F. Morreale