



January 7, 2021

Dear Fellow Employees,

As a quick reminder, the vaccination center located in the old business office/wee care building is open until 6:00 p.m. today if you would like to receive the Moderna Vaccine. There are no further initial vaccine opportunities available after today as we need to receive further direction from the State as to the next phase of the vaccination program. The state will identify additional persons who will be eligible to receive the vaccine. They will then need to provide us with the vaccine to accommodate that population.

For those who were already vaccinated, you should be preparing to receive the required second dose of the vaccine. If you went to Upstate to receive the Pfizer vaccine, you will need to go back there for the second dose. We were not able to have Oneida Health allocated Pfizer vaccines delivered here for administration. You should have been contacted by Upstate to schedule the date and time for your dose administration. It is recommended that you receive the second dose of the Pfizer vaccine at day 21 after receiving the initial dose.

For those who have received the Moderna vaccine at Oneida Health, you will be receiving a text and e-mail next week informing you of when you will be eligible to receive your second dose. It is recommended that you receive the second dose of the Moderna vaccine at day 28 after receiving the initial dose. We began the administration here on 12/23, meaning those staff who received on that date will be asked to present for the second dose on 1/20. You will receive a communication by early next week on when and where you should report for the second dose.

Please note the following:

PPE – new Oneida Health guidelines for PPE were distributed yesterday by the Infection Control office. Please review those and if you have questions, please ask. We are currently in reasonably good shape with all of our PPE and are meeting the State requirements for inventory of each item. Thank you for your continued appropriate use of PPE and for conserving whenever possible.

Covid 19 Update – we currently have 13 COVID positive inpatients. We continue with 7 COVID positive ECF residents. We performed 228 rapid tests yesterday, 25 of which were positive. We have 193 tests pending, majority of which are state required ECF resident and staff testing.

We are in need of staff, both volunteer and paid who can help us with staffing of the vaccine center. If you know of anyone interested in helping in at least 4 hour blocks of time, please ask them to contact either Nancy Cartledge, RN (ncartledge@oneidahealth.org) or Jan DeRocker, RN (jderocker@oneidahealth.org). We need to prepare for a further rollout of the vaccination program and will need staff who can vaccinate or who can be a helper (i.e. help register, greet, etc.) as individuals present for the vaccine.

I will close once again with a sincere thank you to our providers and staff. We have been able to respond very well to the community members needs because of the great teamwork within our organization.

With Sincerest Gratitude,

Gene F. Morreale