

Thursday, July 16, 2020

Dear Fellow Employees,

Please read and share today's COVID update.

1. The Madison County Health Department reached out to inform us that Colgate University would be allowing students back in late August. They have contracted with an outside firm to perform testing on all students and staff upon their return and again 10 days later. The county is concerned that social distancing will be difficult to maintain for the students and as a result, we may see a COVID-19 spread. The county is working closely with the university on this matter. It is likely other nearby colleges and universities will also be reopening in the fall.
2. PPE – small amounts of PPE is trickling in. Purchasing continues to work with alternate vendors to secure items such as nitrile gloves and masks. We believe this process will be ongoing until the manufacturing plants can return to pre-COVID levels and distribution rebuilt. Thank you for your continued diligent use of appropriate PPE – your efforts are working!
3. Result delays from Quest continue. We have moved scheduled elective procedure patients out to the 5-day maximum allowed in NYS in an effort to ensure timely results. We are also labelling these tests as a Priority 1.

4. Current test results are as follows:

We have 1 positive inpatient from the Lutheran Home, who is doing well. We have 23 negative inpatients. We have tested 5,831, with 5394 negative results, 172 positive results and 264 results pending.

5. We are actively interviewing several candidates for the COVID testing circle. We hope to make decisions and onboard staff soon to relieve our nursing staff from this additional work.
6. Gov. Cuomo has added 4 states to his travel advisory mandating travelers from those areas self-quarantine for 14 days. One state removed from the list – DELAWARE.

Alabama	Mississippi
Arkansas	North Carolina
Arizona	New Mexico - new
California	Nevada
Delaware	Ohio - new
Florida	Oklahoma
Georgia	South Carolina
Iowa	Tennessee
Idaho	Texas
Kansas	Utah
Louisiana	Wisconsin - new
Minnesota- new	

7. CMS Administrator Seema Verma announced yesterday at a press conference with Vice President Pence that point-of-care COVID-19 testing at all nursing homes will be available starting next week. The roll out to 15,400 US Nursing homes will begin with 2,000 facilities based on the rate of community spread. Once we receive this testing, we will no longer need to send those tests to Quest. This should help with turn-around times.
8. The Department of Health and Human Services is requiring additional data to include medication shortages and anti-viral medication inventory (Remdesivir).

Thank you for all you do each day both at home and at Oneida Health to keep yourselves, each other and our patients and residents safe.

Gratefully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary J. Parry". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the printed name.

Mary J. Parry