



July 21, 2020

Dear Fellow Employees,

I will begin today's update by congratulating all of you as well as thanking each of you for how well we as an organization are doing during this pandemic. There are so many positives that we should celebrate but most importantly we have done very well in protecting ourselves and our patients and residents. To me that is a true reflection of true professionalism and caring on the part of all employees in this organization. I personally feel we are well prepared for the fall when there may be another bout of COVID and flu. We just need to continue doing what we are doing, keeping our guard up and adhering to the appropriate guidelines.

Please note the following:

1. Testing Circle- The good news is that we have been able to hire 5 per diem employees to provide coverage for our testing circle. They are currently going through the process to become employed by Oneida Health and will be in orientation on Monday August 10. Once properly trained, they will take over staffing the circle allowing our nurses to return to the duties of caring for patients. We are preparing for the long haul on the testing process and therefore will be looking at how to accomplish this testing during the bad weather months which will be here before we know it. More to come on this as we roll this plan out.
2. Turn-Around Time- There is a national crisis in regards to receiving results from the major labs on a timely basis. The CEO's for those labs have said that they are doing all they can to meet the high demand for testing and do not feel that they have the capability to add more resources to meet increased demand especially during the upcoming flu season. They are pushing for other types of testing to be developed for COVID that will allow for an improved turn-around time. I say this because we currently have 306 tests out to Quest that are pending. Many are beyond the 5 day limit. We have also had elective patients come in for their procedure and we had not received results back as of that time and therefore we needed to retest them using the rapid test process. The simple solution would be to rapid test everyone rather than use the send out testing kits, but we do not have an adequate supply of rapid testing kits as this time so that approach is not currently feasible. Down the road that may be an option.
3. PPE- I was on a call this morning with the Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS) representatives discussing the national shortage of PPE. Demand is currently out-pacing supply. What is adding to the problem is that both the Federal and State governments are stock piling PPE for future use. That definitely has a negative impact on our ability to secure PPE and is also driving up the cost for PPE supplies. We are still in relatively good shape with the majority of our PPE. Concerns remain on obtaining N95 masks, gloves as well as head coverings. We have orders out for the N95's and gloves and hopefully we will receive some soon. We are also purchasing cloth head coverings to be used and laundered here so we can reduce our reliance on throw-away head coverings. The Laundry Department continues to do a remarkable job turning around

all of our laundered materials so that we have adequate supply throughout the network. We will be purchasing another personal washing machine to help with the laundering of gowns and soon to be laundered caps.

4. COVID Results- I have the results dating back to Friday 7/17 and will simply summarize it up to today's report dated 7/21. We have tested a total of 6,194 individuals, 5,711 negative, 176 positive with 306 pending results. We have had a total of 3 hospital deaths to date. We received 41 results from all of our locations and all were negative. The major issue is the large number of pending tests, many of which are our ECF employee testing results. We continue to contact Quest looking for results which date back well over 7 days. Not good and very frustrating. We continue with 1 COVID positive patient in the hospital who is the patient from the Lutheran Home who is here as he remains positive.

I will close by asking that you please continue using all the PPE necessary to protect yourselves and our patients. Face shields when providing direct patient care is a must. Thank you and please keep up the great work you are doing.

With Sincerest Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gene F. Morreale". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Gene F. Morreale