



Oneida Health
exceptional care... always

July 7, 2020

Dear Fellow Employees,

I hope all of you were able to enjoy the July 4th holiday celebrating our 244th year as a nation. It was somewhat of an odd July 4th due to a number of things including this pandemic. As you have read, NYS continues to do well in regards to its recovery from COVID-19. The numbers I will share with you in this update today will continue to show that.

Please note the following:

1. Visitors- Since we implemented several tactics to control visitation as explained in my June 30th update, I am told that things are much better in regards to visitors following the current guidelines. A big Thank you to our Security staff who have done a wonderful job in communicating and helping ensure that the guidelines are being adhered to. We also had an 80 visit day in the ED yesterday which brought in a number of different types of situations where Security was helpful. In addition, the hospital staff in the ED, ICU and 4th Floor were very resilient in regards to the increased volume with a number of employees working extra hours at the end of their shift to ensure patient coverage and safety. We continue to bounce back in a good way in a number of areas and look forward to that continuing.
2. Travel- Three more states have been added to the NYS Travel Restriction list. The new states are in bold print. The others continue to be on the listing. They include Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, **Delaware**, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Idaho, **Kansas**, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, North and South Carolina, **Oklahoma**, Tennessee, Texas and Utah. Therefore, those of you that need to travel to any one of those states need to be cleared prior to returning to work. This includes having a rapid test done prior to the start of your work schedule upon return from one of the listed states. It is very much appreciated if you would notify the Employee Health Office in advance of your return and schedule your testing. It is not quite a simple process as it takes time to get you registered and then perform the test. Advance notification to the Health Office by calling 315-361-2907 is very much appreciated.
3. PPE- As volume picks up within the hospital, the use of PPE will increase. Although we have received a number of PPE items over the last week, we continue to search for vendors to supply us with small N95 masks as well as the blue gloves. As I mentioned previously, we utilize about 9,000 of the blue gloves per day throughout the organization so maintaining a sufficient inventory of those gloves is difficult. We will continue to do our best to secure all of the necessary PPE for your ongoing use and safety.
4. Testing Results- In light of the issues regarding COVID testing accuracy, health experts continue to warn that receiving a negative test result does not necessarily mean that a person is not infected with new Coronavirus. The FDA cautions that negative results must be considered in the context of an individual's recent exposures, history, presence of clinical signs and symptoms

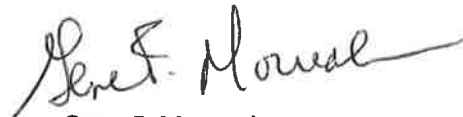
consistent with COVID-19. Because of the potential for a false negative from testing these days, everyone should continue to practice social distancing even if they receive a negative result. People who test negative should continue to social distance and use facemasks or coverings to protect themselves against possible transmission. These are the recommendations from experts in our country. Therefore, please continue to follow the guidelines for masking, face shields, and hand washing. The cleaning of high touch areas is still important. By protecting yourself, you are protecting your patients as well as your family.

5. COVID Test Results- There were a number of days I need to report on and I thought it would be easier to provide a summary of where we are at as of July 7. We have tested a total of 5124 individuals, 4918 negative with 165 positives and 41 pending. We still have 1 hospital death. As of today, we received 90 results as follows: Elective Procedures 48/0, Inpatient testing 16/0, ED 9/0, Practices 5/0, ECF Staff 5/0, and Employee Health 5/0. We currently have 3 positive inpatients, all individuals sent to use from the Lutheran Home. Our overall positive rate is 3.2% and this includes many patients who present that are symptomatic or have been exposed. It also includes a number of individuals we are testing prior to elective procedures. We will continue to test in the circle for elective cases as well as testing in our ED and Quick Care offices.
6. Summer Heat- We are definitely in a stretch of very warm weather which impacts a number of us from the elderly to those without air conditioning. We have staff doing testing outside and needing to gown up during this hot weather and we have given them the leeway of closing the circle and bringing individuals inside to be tested. In our Laundry area, we are monitoring closely the temperature and doing all we can to make sure the environment is one that is safe to work in. This high heat just adds another challenge to our ability to serve our community.

We were recently featured on a Spectrum news cast regarding a true miracle that happened in our ED. The link is currently on our Facebook page and has been included in the body of the email for today's update.

Please accept my Thanks for all you have been doing and continue to do to meet our patient's and resident's needs. Thank you to those supporting the care as it does help us on a day to day basis to meet the needs of those who come to us for care. We have a fantastic organization here because of all of you.

With Sincerest Gratitude,



Gene F. Morreale