



**Oneida Health**  
*exceptional care... always*

June 18, 2020

Dear Fellow Employee,

Our recovery as a community as well as an organization from this pandemic appears to be moving along nicely. With that said, please be aware of the following:

1. The PPE inventory continues to be in very good shape and our Purchasing Director has been informed by our normal PPE vendor that we should receive 10 cases of small N95 masks by July 13. This is not a guarantee, but something that we look forward to and hope for. We are also looking to receive more reusable gowns next week and once they are stamped with the Oneida Health name and laundered, we will distribute to the ED and other areas where isolation continues. As I had mentioned in my previous update, our implementation of the Rapid Testing has had a good impact on decreasing our PPE utilization as we are now receiving the results in about 2 hours for the Rapid Test. This way, all admitted inpatients tested using the Rapid Test technology, we will know results quickly. Therefore, we will not have to burn PPE unnecessarily as these tests are coming back negative to date.
2. Speaking of Rapid Testing, we have tested 74 patients to date using this technology with 1 positive. As a result, we have no pending inpatient tests because of the use of this Rapid Testing. We are doing the testing on a 24/7 basis with the understanding that we only have 1 Laboratory Tech on the night shift and therefore results may be slowed some but the demand for the test at that time of day is minimal.
3. In regards to our financial performance under this pandemic, for the month of May we had a shortfall in revenue of approximately \$1.9 million versus what we had budgeted. We also had a reduction in our expenses of approximately \$800,000 versus what was budgeted. As a result, for the month of May we utilized \$1.1 million of the stimulus funds provided us by the Federal Government by the CARES Act to bring our bottom line to where our budget was. We still have stimulus funds remaining that we will be able to use for the months of June and July as we anticipate continued revenue shortfalls through the summer. The focus is not just on growing the revenue, we are working very hard to identify opportunities to reduce expenses throughout the organization. With the current 1.5% reduction in Medicaid reimbursement for the remainder of the year as well as the potential for significant Medicaid cuts if the State cannot balance its budget, this will have significant impacts on our ability to continue to provide services as we do today. Therefore, the focus on expense reduction needs to be there and I look to all members of our organization to look for ways to help reduce expenses. More to come on that as we develop an approach for further expense reduction.
4. Our Emergency Department Medical Director Dr. Kirby Black provided some statistical insight on the impact of COVID on the ED. From the time of March 22- June 17, we had 3787 total ED visits with 62 uniquely positive patients which gives us a COVID percentage in our ED of 1.8%. Of the

62 positive patients, 22 were admitted to the hospital from the ED. In regards to the recent month dated May 19-June 17, we had 1702 total ED visits with 4 COVID positive patients, 3 of which were admitted. This gives us an overall percentage for the month of .23%. This tells us that the COVID numbers remain low and are going lower as each month passes. Again, I reiterate that our ED is a safe place to receive emergency care.

5. As of June 17, we have tested 3795 individuals tested, 3530 negative, with 151 positive and currently 114 pending. Most of the pending are from the Elective Surgery testing program. We will have recorded only 1 death in our hospital due to COVID. We did receive 62 results as follows: Elective Procedure testing 43/0, Inpatient testing 2/0, ED 5/0, practices 7/0, and ECF staff 3/0. On that date we had 1 positive COVID inpatient who has been discharged.

As of June 18, we have tested 3832 individuals with 3568 negative, 151 positive and 113 pending. We received 38 results as follows: Elective Procedure testing 0/0, Inpatient testing 6/0, ED 9/0, Practices 7/0, ECF staff 15/0 and Employee Health 1/0. We currently have 0 positive inpatients and 0 COVID positives in our ECF.

6. NYS has informed us that they are permitting hospitals to allow visitors for inpatients effective any time after June 19. They provided us with guidelines but also required that we develop our policies in line with those guidelines and submit them to the DOH for approval. They asked for 48 hours to review and approve. Our plan is to submit those revised guidelines and allow visitors for inpatients starting on Monday June 22. I just want to reiterate that this is only allowable for hospitalized inpatients and there are limited hours and limited individuals that would be allowed to visit. Our guidelines which will be distributed if not this afternoon, tomorrow morning will specify exactly what will be allowable in regards to visitors. The Extended Care Facility remains a no visitor place. Please be on the lookout for our updated policy. We will also be posting this on our webpage so community members understand that there are a number of restrictions on visitation still. I believe we need to be careful as hospitalized patients are very sick and potentially exposing them to the COVID virus is not in their best interest.

As noted in other parts of the country, as the states opened up there has been an increase in the number of positive COVID cases. Whether that trend will continue and whether we will see that in NYS is unknown. Therefore, please do not let your guard down in regards to protecting yourself, your family as well as our patients and residents.

Thank you again for all you are doing throughout the network to either provide direct patient care or support that care. We are doing a very, very good job to date.

With Sincerest Gratitude,



Gene F. Morreale  
President and CEO