



June 29, 2020

Dear Fellow Employees,

There has been some activity over the last several days that are news worthy and I thought I would provide this update today rather than waiting until tomorrow.

Please note the following:

1. There has been a recent outbreak at Lutheran Home where 17 of their residents have become positive for COVID. As a result, the Lutheran Home communicated with the State and County Health Departments that they could no longer manage this volume of cases. Therefore, the decision was made to send residents to area hospitals. We have received 4 residents from Lutheran Home and all are positive for COVID. The majority if not all of the 4 will be admitted to the Med/Surg unit of the hospital. Our goal would be to provide the necessary care to these residents and once COVID negative, return them to the Lutheran Home.
2. Our PPE continues to be in good shape again thanks to everyone's efforts. The good news is that we will be receiving 432 more reusable gowns and they should be here by Thursday. Once those have been stamped with Oneida Health on them and laundered, they will be distributed to higher use areas within the organization including the ED. On the N95 front, our orders have been pushed back to early or mid July but again these dates are not guaranteed and all likelihood will be pushed back once again. We continue to struggle to secure more of the small 3M N95 masks.
3. The following is an update on the COVID testing by date:

As of June 26, we have tested a total of 4422 individuals, 4180 negative, 153 positive with 89 pending. We received 43 results back as follows: Elective Procedures 3/0, Inpatient Testing 12/0, ED 8/0, Practices 8/0, ECF staff 11/0 and Employee Health 1/0. On this date, there were no positive inpatients.

As of June 27, we have tested a total of 4485 individuals, 4193 negative, 154 positive with 138 pending. We received 14 results back as follows: Elective Procedures 0/0, Inpatient Testing 6/0, ED 7/0, Practices 0/0, ECF staff 0/0 and Employee Health 1/0. On this date, there were no positive inpatients.

As of June 28, we have tested a total of 4556 individuals, 4336 negative, 156 positive with 64 pending. We received 145 results back as follows: Elective Procedures 36/0, Inpatient Testing 5/1, ED 2/0, Practices including Quick Care 33/1, ECF staff 63/0 and Employee Health 1/0. The 2 positives noted are the same person first tested in our practice and a repeat rapid test here. We now have 1 positive inpatient. This is a Lutheran Home resident that was there for rehab.

As of June 29, we have tested a total of 4568 individuals, 4405 negative, 159 positive with 4 pending. We received 72 results back as follows: Elective Procedures 51/0, Inpatient Testing 5/1, ED 4/2, Practices 6/0, and ECF staff 3/0. We will soon have 4 COVID positive inpatients and as noted in my initial comments, these were from the Lutheran Home.

4. Visitation- As you know, we have allowed visitors in the hospital inpatient units and feedback has been both positive and negative. It appears that some visitors are removing their masks once in the patient's room and/or are leaving the room to purchase from the vending machines or get coffee. It is important that we control this as best we can to ensure that non-employees are not walking throughout the facility. Security will remind visitors upon entry into the main lobby of the requirements for masking and staying in the patient room. Our Do's and Don'ts poster will be placed in each patient's room so they understand as visitors what they can and should not do while in the hospital setting. Failure to get full cooperation from visitors will result in our going backwards to the no visitation policy. Please help ensure that visitors abide by the current requirements.

Based upon the above, I think it is important that we understand that the virus is not totally wiped out in our region. Spread appears to occur in clusters and we need to continue with our following the necessary prevention guidelines. As a reminder, wearing your mask while at work, washing hands frequently with soap and water as well as helping clean the environment particularly in high touch areas.

Thank you once again for all each of you are doing for our patients, residents and for your co-workers.

With Sincerest Gratitude,


Gene F. Morreale