



Oneida Health
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June 30, 2020

Dear Fellow Employees,

Much has changed in the last 24 hours in regards to COVID in this country. This update will provide you with the most current information available to us.

Please note the following:

1. Visitors- It continues to be brought to the leadership's attention that visitors are not following the Visitor Response Plan guidelines. The same two issues that I mentioned yesterday continue to surface, that is, failure to wear a mask and failure to refrain from leaving the room and going to other parts of the hospital. One additional concern is the number of visitors per room which is capped at 2. As a result, we are tightening things up at the entrance where security will remind visitors of the current restrictions. In addition, we will be developing a pass program where only 2 passes per patient will be available at any one time. Once the passes are in use, no more visitors will be allowed to enter. We also have COVID patients on the Med/Surg unit. Although not stated explicitly in our policy, COVID patients are not allowed visitors. We will continue to use our iPads as a means for communication with outside loved ones. I have updated the Visitor Response Plan to incorporate that visitors are not allowed for COVID positive patients. A copy of the updated Visitor Response Plan is attached for your reference.
2. Travel Restrictions- As promised, NYS has increased the number of states where travel to will result in a 14 day quarantine for those returning. We were alerted that 8 more states were added to the original list. The states that are on the quarantine list include:
 - Alabama
 - Arkansas
 - Arizona
 - California
 - Florida
 - Georgia
 - Iowa
 - Idaho
 - Louisiana
 - Mississippi
 - Nevada
 - North Carolina
 - South Carolina
 - Tennessee
 - Texas
 - Utah

As I stated previously, I discourage travel to these states as they currently are considered hot spot states and therefore the chances of infection with COVID increases. Although we are not currently restricted from visiting these states, please follow guidelines in the event that you must travel to one of these quarantine states. Those guidelines require you to have a rapid test done prior to the start of your work schedule upon return from that state. If you know you are going to one of these states, it is strongly recommended that you notify your manager so that they can arrange for you to have the rapid test upon your return and prior to the start of your shift. You will need to be registered in the Meditech system in order for the lab test to be performed and reported out. As you can imagine, this will take time and again this must be accomplished prior to the start of your normal work schedule. Even though you may have had a negative rapid test, the requirement remains that you self quarantine when not at work for the 14 day period.

3. Rapid Testing Results- We have had good success to date using the rapid test and when we have done the necessary checks and balances on this test to ensure its accuracy, we have received positive results when they should be positive. There remains in the literature issues regarding the accuracy of a negative result on a rapid test. Some studies have identified a false negative occurring 20% of the time, in other words, 2 out of 10 cases where a false negative was reported. The company has made improvements and is stating that that number is way overstated and it is more like 96% accurate. With this as the information we know today, it remains important that even though someone returns a negative rapid test, we will need to follow necessary precautions for that exception where it is a false negative. Following our precautions which are using a face mask and a face shield as well as washing hand throughout the day will protect us from exposure to the virus.
4. PPE- Our PPE burn rate continues to go as expected and with 4 COVID positive patients now on the inpatient unit, we will see an increase in utilization. With that said, we were notified this morning at our COVID Leadership Team meeting that our PPE allocations with distributors are still somewhat restricted and are at approximately 60% of our normal PPE allocation. We are starting to see shortages/restrictions with distributors on shoe covers, bouffants and Nitrile gloves. We are working very hard to secure those items from other distributors. As is the case, pricing continues to increase on these items which is problematic. A good example is Nitrile gloves. We had been paying \$70 for a case of 6 boxes and the new price is now \$100 per case of 6 boxes. That means that each glove goes from \$.04 to \$.06. We utilize currently about 9000 gloves per day. I say all of this to keep you informed and to ask that you continue to help ensure that we are caring for our resources in the most appropriate way.
5. As of June 30, we have tested a total of 4602 individuals, 4425 negative, 160 positive and 17 pending. We received 21 results yesterday as follows: Elective Procedure 3/1, Inpatient testing 8/0, ED 5/0, Practices 1/0, ECF staff 2/0 and Employee Health 1/0. We continue to have 4 COVID positive inpatients all from the Lutheran Nursing Home. The one elective was a surgical case that will need to be rescheduled. A question was raised as to the results at the Walmart/Quest testing site, those results are no longer shared with us so we have no idea. They are provided from the County to the State.

Thank you for continuing to do that.

With Sincerest Gratitude,



Gene F. Morreale