



Oneida Health
exceptional care... always

June 5, 2020

Dear Fellow Employee,

There are a couple of items that I thought should be communicated today rather than waiting until my next scheduled update next Tuesday.

Please note the following updates:

1. Good news on the PPE front. Our wonderful Purchasing Department has been able to secure over 900 3M small N95 masks for our use. These are considered alternate 3M masks in that they do not have the same protection as the normal 3M masks from liquid exposure. Respiratory has reviewed these masks and confirmed that they have the same fit and air particle protection as the teal N95's. With our using face shields over these masks as well as many who are using a surgical mask over the N95, the protection afforded is excellent. I know a number of staff were very concerned that we would run out of N95's and therefore did not know how we would be able to protect them. These alternate N95 masks from 3M I believe will be satisfactory to all especially if wearing your face shield when providing patient care. In the meantime, I continue to communicate with our state associations as well as the American Hospital Association regarding the needs for N95 masks, especially small size. We as a country should be able to produce sufficient numbers moving forward so that all healthcare providers have adequate inventory to care for their patients.
2. A community member and a supporter of our organization recently received care here and asked that I share with you his comments. He stated "I just wanted to share that my recent outpatient procedure experience at Oneida Health was top notch, professional from start to finish. In a time when most have put off non-emergency procedures due to concerns related to COVID-19, I felt extremely safe throughout my time on your health campus. Everyone who treated and cared for me throughout my procedure showed me empathy and compassion. Please extend my gratitude for all of your employees who make Oneida Health a great healthcare facility." In my opinion, this is exactly who we are. I congratulate you again for doing this at a time when it is needed most. My goal is for us to continue to build on this excellent approach to care so that anyone entering any of our services will feel the same way in regards to how they were treated. That will then allow us to continue to be a successful healthcare organization.
3. In regards to testing, we have now tested 2867 individuals, 2565 negative, 147 positive and we have 155 with test results pending. We remain with one death. Today we received 29 results as follows: Elective Procedure 3/0, Inpatient testing 7/0, ED 2/0, Practices including Quick Care 16/1 and no ECF staff were tested. We currently have 0 positive inpatients and we have 9 inpatient tests pending.

4. Madison County Health Department had reported that there have been 4 additional deaths in our County increasing that number from 11 to 15. These individuals died at The Grand Nursing Home. They were not reported as COVID deaths because the test results were not back at the time of death. Now that the results have been returned, NYS requires them to be counted as COVID deaths. The County also reported that the Upstate Mobile Van tested 40 individuals in Chittenango on Wednesday and all results were negative.

5. I was just informed that our testing circle being open on Saturday morning has 72 scheduled individuals coming through. The majority are patients being tested for elective procedures. I want to again recognize the staff who are performing these tests in the circle. It has allowed us to continue to provide care and meet the needs of our community members.

The upcoming weekend hopefully will result in some good weather for us to enjoy. For those of you that are scheduled to work, please accept my thanks for being here for our patients and residents.

With Sincerest Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gene F. Morreale".

Gene F. Morreale
President and CEO