



Oneida Health
exceptional care... always

March 1, 2021

Dear Fellow Employees,

Our organization continues to respond to the current pandemic situation as best we can. We continue to provide a number of services to the community members for COVID as well as their ongoing health care needs provided through members of our Medical Staff and our programs/services.

Please note the following:

1. COVID Positives- We currently have 2 COVID positive inpatients and remain at 0 COVID positive nursing home residents. We received the majority of our outstanding COVID test results and all were negative except for 1 from our practice. Our turn-around time for both rapid testing and now PCR testing has been very good which is a big plus.
2. ECF Visitor Restrictions- As of tomorrow, our ECF will begin to allow visitors in to the 1st floor dining area to meet with their loved ones. There are certain requirements that need to be fulfilled before visiting that include a negative COVID test within 72 hours of the planned visit as well as feeling healthy on the day of the visit. While visiting a loved one, the requirements remain in that both the resident and visitors must wear masks and must practice social distancing. Although the majority of our residents are vaccinated, these requirements remain from Albany and appear to be in the best interest of our residents at this time.
3. Testing Center- We have reduced our testing center hours due to reduced demand. We are now operating Monday-Friday from 8-4:30. As testing volume continues to go down, we will further reduce those hours but will continue to maintain the testing center so that symptomatic individuals as well as those presenting for elective procedures have good access to a COVID test.
4. Criteria for Testing- I have attached to today's update our current order form which outlines the criteria for testing that are in place. Please ensure you are familiar with that especially from our provider practices so that when individuals call requesting a test, you are aware of what currently qualifies an individual to be tested.

As you have read by now, the Johnson and Johnson vaccine will be made available soon to administer. Although we are not looking to become a vaccine administration site, we will do all we can to ensure that our new employees as well as our ECF residents have access to the vaccine. Whether it is Johnson and Johnson or the other two, we will continue to communicate how to access that vaccine.

Please feel free to direct any questions to my attention. Thank you for your continuing support of our network of care and services.

With Sincerest Gratitude

Gene F. Morreale