



Oneida Health
exceptional care... always

March 17, 2021

Dear Fellow Employees,

I wanted to begin today's update with a short piece of positive information.

I received a call from a patient this morning. This patient had surgery here on Monday and wanted to express her gratitude for the "spectacular" experience she had with our organization. She commented from the time of pre-registration to her experience with Security, the Ambulatory Surgery staff, OR staff, Surgeon and PACU staff, it was just wonderful. I asked where she lived and she commented just outside of Utica on the east side. Without me even asking, she said that yes, I pass other hospitals so I can come to Oneida because there is no better feeling amongst the staff here that I could get at any other area hospital. All staff truly care about their work and about the patients they serve. Her surgery was a complete success and she is feeling very good today, only taking Tylenol at this time for pain. Please be proud of not only this individual's feedback, but know that this is how you regularly impact those who come here for care as these types of positive comments I receive frequently. Also know that it takes a great team to have a patient take the time to call the CEO to express their gratitude. All of you from the Laboratory, Housekeeping, Central Sterile, Dietary, provider practices and all the way down the line are helping to achieve these outcomes. We are Oneida Health.

Please note the following:

1. COVID Positives- We currently have 2 COVID positive inpatients and remain at 0 COVID positive ECF residents. We performed over 200 tests yesterday with 5 results being positive. I am pleased to report that the number of positives that we are seeing continues to be low which is a good thing for our community as a whole. Continuing on our current path of proper protections for each other as well as our patients and residents is necessary and is appreciated.
2. PPE- We remain in a very good position right now with all of our PPE. Although we had been paying much more for these supplies due to the pandemic, our Purchasing service has been able to secure adequate inventory so that we are ready for any future surge and will be able to provide the necessary PPE to all of our staff.
3. Travel Guidelines- The Infection Control Office has summarized the most recent traveler guidelines which are attached to today's update. I hope you find this summary of those guidelines helpful.
4. Vaccination Services- We will be receiving 100 second doses of the Moderna vaccine and that will be set aside for those individuals who received their initial dose with us. We are completing a survey that the Health Department provided us with in regards to our willingness to provide the vaccine to individuals (with limited or no restrictions) in the near future? In all probability, if we are going to embark on a new vaccine program with no restrictions, we will most probably offer those through our Primary Care offices. That is being further discussed and we will respond

to the Health Department's questions and keep you all apprised of next steps. Proper handling and storage of the vaccine is of utmost importance.

Please accept my continued appreciation for the great work you are doing for Oneida Health as well as those that we serve. Oneida Health continues to be recognized as a safe, high patient experience facility due to all of your efforts. Please keep up the great work.

With Sincerest Gratitude

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gene F. Morreale". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Gene F. Morreale