



March 22, 2020

Dear Fellow Employee,

As you may be aware by now, Madison county had its first community member who tested positive. The County Health Department is on top of the situation, working to ensure the safety of the County residents.

We continue to test individuals who meet the criteria for testing. As of this date, all results reported back to us from the testing labs have been negative.

Information in this morning's news state that there are over 24,000 COVID 19 cases in the U.S. with more than 10,350 (43%) detected in N.Y. state. This explains why the State Government is taking aggressive steps to protect its residents.

We as a nation, and the world as a whole, have faced outbreaks in the recent past. This included the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), Ebola, Measles and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). The most recent pandemic that affected us was the H1N1 (swine flu), where from April 2009 to April 2010, 60.8 million cases were diagnosed in the U.S., 12,469 deaths and 274,304 hospitalizations occurred.

The concern is that we are still in the early stages of the COVID 19 pandemic and the numbers continue to grow each day. This is why our Federal, State and Local Government s are responding so aggressively. They are doing what is best for the people of this nation. Our job is to cooperate by following the restrictions and prevention initiatives in place so that the spread can be reduced. Although only one confirmed case in Madison Cou8nty at this point, understand the regional numbers are up meaning the virus is out there.

As health care workers, we should do all we can to help our family and friends know what the requirements are and why it is important that we all abide by them.

Through this Sunday morning, we as an organization are doing very well. We currently have an adequate supply of PPE due in part to our efforts in conserving this important resource. Our volume of patients in our network seeking care is significantly reduced. That trend will most probably be the norm unless the virus becomes more widespread in our region and until the crisis is behind us.

While at work, if you have time, please contribute in the cleaning of high touch areas throughout the day. This includes door handles, elevators, railings, countertops, etc. Our housekeeping staff are doing a phenomenal job of keeping areas as clean as possible. If we all pitch in when able to do so, we will be that much better. We do not have a high supply of sani wipes, so talk to your housekeeper about using other cleaning solutions which are very effective against this virus. We will roll this out in a more coordinated way on Monday.

I will close for now by thanking you for your caring and loyalty to your work responsibilities. Tomorrow I will provide a summary update of all we have in place and what the status is of future initiatives. This will include updates on HR related matters and plans for temporary closure of underutilized programs/services. Thank you all....

With Sincerest Gratitude,

Gene F. Morreale  
President and CEO