



March 31, 2020

Dear Fellow Employee,

As we continue to work each day to provide care in as safe as an environment as humanly possible, we are identifying opportunities for improvement. How and when to use PPE is an example of areas we continue to evaluate and improve upon.

As of today, we have had a number of ACF employees who were exposed to a co-worker and or patient who was eventually diagnosed as COVID-19 positive. All such staff have been notified and are being closely monitored for signs and symptoms of the virus. No Oneida Health employee has tested COVID-19 positive up to this point due to work exposure. Following PPE guidelines, masking and when possible, social distancing should prevent any exposure at work. As stated previously, any exposure of staff will be immediately shared with the impacted persons.

Please note the following updates:

1. We continue to have some success in securing the needed PPE. Although we are paying significantly more now for these supplies, we are focused on getting them here for our staff to use. We are implementing further measures to secure these supplies and to distribute them in a controlled manner. We have also received donations from community members and businesses which are greatly appreciated.
2. We are being informed of an appropriate method of sterilizing N95 masks. If we pursue this avenue, the masks will be sterilized and returned to the person who had worn it initially. Very strict protocol on this process is being reviewed and we will not pursue until there is adequate guidance to do so.
3. Attached is an information sheet containing "Tips for Protecting You and Your Family After You Leave Work." There are reasonable suggestions that you should try to comply with.
4. The Governor continues to request health care workers to volunteer to go to New York City to work. I have been asked to provide to the State the number of clinical staff that may be available to help as well as our ability to accept patients from the downstate area. I have no further knowledge to share on this topic at this time. As it becomes known to me, I will share in the daily update.
5. The Hospital Circle Testing Service continues to do well. We tested 20 patients yesterday. A big thank you to the nurses involved in that process, and the laboratory technicians who continue to process these tests. The good news is the majority of testing results we have received are negative for Flu and COVID-19. There are 56 positives in Madison County. 17 of those are from our network.

6. Very important that we are checking our symptoms at least twice per day. The symptom monitoring tracking form is ideal for that. Feel free to share with family and friends. As a health care worker, please set the example for friends and family. You know what the guidelines are and why they are important. Again, please do all you can to help with this crisis. Strictly following guidelines will make a positive difference.

Closing today's update with a heartfelt thank you to each of you. You continue to amaze.....

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gene F. Morreale". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gene F. Morreale
President and CEO