



May 10, 2020

Dear Fellow Employee,

Please accept my wishes to the moms of Oneida Health, that you have a peaceful and Happy Mother's Day. For the many moms at work today, thank you so much for being there for our patients and residents. We are open 24/7/365 which means that a good number of our employees are working on Holidays and weekends. Your ongoing dedication to the health of the community is needed and very much appreciated!

News out of Albany today where the Governor is now mandating that all nursing home employees be COVID tested twice per week until further notice. Failure to abide by this mandate will result in the State pulling that facilities nursing home operating license. Not sure who will be responsible for paying for this as the test and kit costs us a total of \$71 each. This was just announced today and I will receive more information when the State releases this newest executive order. It is most probably in response to the many deaths statewide that have occurred in long term care and elder communities.

We have now tested 1349 individuals, 1148 negative, 131 positive with 70 pending results. There is currently one positive inpatient with 6 pending test results. Last night we received 32 test results, one positive outpatient and 31 negative.

Just a quick comment. Went out today to purchase some groceries, my first time doing that in a while. What a different experience. Besides the many arrows and notices on social isolation, people were afraid to not only be in the same aisle, they would not make eye contact. As I walk through our organization these days, granted we need to keep social distancing which we do, people still smile (beneath the mask) and say hello in a nice way. Let's not lose that culture of friendliness and caring. I believe it is what makes us special and I don't want to have to ever experience what I did today shopping. The fear was very evident.....tough times for all of us.

I will update you throughout the week on how we are doing with our return to business with many of our services now fully open.

Please enjoy the remainder of this day. Thank you all...

With Sincerest Gratitude,

Gene F. Morreale  
President and CEO