



Oneida Health
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May 12, 2020

Dear Fellow Employee,

Today's update will be relatively short as there is not too much more to update you on since yesterday's update.

The major emphasis at this time is to respond to the NY State Health Department with a plan on how we will test all ECF employees twice per week. As you can imagine, this is no easy feat as there are a number of part time and per diem staff that we will need to work into the process. We hope to have the plan developed and submitted by tomorrow afternoon. We will also communicate this to all of our dedicated and talented ECF providers and staff.

I will once again mention PPE, in particular small N95 masks. Our supply is running low and replacement is not happening at this time due to nationwide demand. I was made aware that only a small number of physicians and staff are actually participating in the reprocessing of N95 masks. This is due, I am told, to the fact that the masks do not fit well after reprocessing and that loose fiber material from the inside of the masks is entering the staff person's mouth when wearing. As a result, we are immediately looking into those concerns to do what we can work to fix them. Literature commenting on reprocessing of masks does not reflect these issues. Perhaps our reprocessing steps need to be changed? More to come.

What I am hoping to avoid is the restriction of N95 masks, which has occurred in a number of CNY hospitals. Having said that, when our inventory is gone, we may not have a choice. Again, we are working on securing more masks and we will look to improve our reprocessing. Please continue to help with this. Your efforts are needed and very much appreciated.

We have tested 1394 individuals, 1220 negative, 133 positive with 41 pending. One inpatient who is positive and 7 inpatients pending. We received 56 results last night, 2 positive (one who is an inpatient and one an outpatient). As a reminder, there are so many tests being done as it is required for all elective surgical and endoscopy procedure patients. The good news is the high number of negatives.

Please accept my continued wish for your good health as well as the good health of your family and friends.

With Sincerest Gratitude,

Gene F. Morreale
President and CEO