



Oneida Health
exceptional care... always

May 13, 2020

Dear Fellow Employee,

As we recognize health care workers during this annual week of recognition, I wanted to share with you a short article on a pioneer in healthcare, Florence Nightingale. Yesterday would have been the 200th birthday for Ms. Nightingale and that date is celebrated each year as International Nurse Appreciation Day. The article I attached celebrates her contribution to not only nursing, but also to the safe practice of medicine.

I wanted to share in this update one short paragraph from the article. "Nightingales's philosophy of nursing states a healthy environment is essential for healing. She placed the person and family at the center and encouraged people to take charge of their own health, recovery and healing. She required there to be collaboration between the person/family and the health care provider- and she incorporated that teamwork mentality into her day to day life."

The above describes what we have been using here. It is our Commitments to Patient/Resident Centered Care and Commitment to Teamwork. I believe we are a special organization, providing a high level of care because our providers and staff buy into these standards. To think that Ms. Nightingale promulgated this philosophy in care 200 years ago is to me, astounding! I hope you have time to read the attached article on this special person.

Please note the following updates:

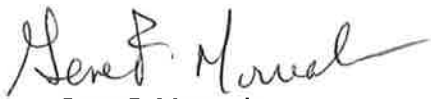
1. Our major focus continues to be PPE. We as an organization have done remarkably well in using this supply appropriately. Again, Congratulations and Thank you! Our one critical item remains small size N95 masks. We are continuing to evaluate our reprocessing of masks to determine if we can address the concerns raised by staff who use their own reprocessed masks. We are also identifying staff who are using the small size and testing them on the regular size mask, which we have more of. We have had good success in converting a number of staff from small to regular. That will help. Also, we did receive a large shipment of KN95 masks several weeks ago. We have tested them and although much better than surgical loops masks, they do not meet the N95 requirements. We are evaluating how to best utilize these KN95 masks, not in place of N95's, but as a higher level of mask for non-COVID cases. More to come on this as we work through an approach that makes sense.
2. We have now tested 1427 individuals, 1252 negative, 134 positive with 41 pending, and one hospital death to date. We received 32 results last night. Elective surgery tested 12 with 0 positive, Inpatient tested 5 with 0 positive, ER tested 4 with 0 positive and the Practices including Quick Care tested 10 with 1 positive. We currently have 2 positive inpatients with 12 inpatients pending.

3. Our business is picking up in certain areas which is great to see. ER saw 50 patients yesterday. OR performed 19 surgeries and we performed 6 endoscopies. Census at the ECF remains at 82%. Again, pleased with the current numbers but....not near what we budgeted. The OR numbers benefitted from Apex Surgical Center still being closed as a surgeon from there brought his cases here so he could take care of his patients. I will keep you updated on our services so that you are aware of challenges as well as growth in volume.

4. We continue to work on our State mandated COVID-19 testing program for all ECF employees. We will need to absorb the cost of that testing which is currently \$71 per test. Full time employees in the ECF must be tested twice per week and those working 3 days or less, tested once per week. We have no option other than participate in this new, unfounded mandate. We remain at 0 residents who tested positive for COVID-19.

I will close today's update by Congratulating and Thanking all of the members of this organization for the phenomenal work you do each day. Oneida Health is a "special" place because we have "special" people.

With Sincerest Gratitude,

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

Gene F. Morreale
President and CEO