



May 15, 2020

Dear Fellow Employee,

Very interesting morning and early afternoon. Our COVID-19 readiness team participated in a call with Senator Gillibrand. We were able to share with her our ongoing needs during this pandemic. This included the need for an adequate supply of PPE at a reasonable price, assistance with physician recruitment, access to COVID-19 Rapid Testing kits as well as investing to improve technology apparatus that will help us keep our workplace clean and safe. Others who participated in the call asked for additional financial support through the recovery from this pandemic, which we agreed with and appreciated the financial support to date. The Senator will continue to provide assistance as best as she is able.

Later in the morning, I was able to participate in a call with the Iroquois Healthcare Association, where a number of CEO's from the Albany and CNY area joined me on the call. This association, which we are a member of, provided us with the most current updates from what is happening in Governor Cuomo's Albany plans. The Nursing Home Employee testing was a significant point of contention from all. Not only the statewide cost (377,000 tests/week - \$44 million in cost/week), but also the fact that there is not currently an adequate supply of testing kits to meet this demand. In addition, the laboratories doing the test processing will be significantly over burdened and it may result in increased turn-around time for everyone. It very well could negatively impact our pre-surgery testing result turn-around time.

During the same call, the now \$13 billion NYS budget deficit was discussed. The Governor, it appears, will be announcing soon \$8.2 billion dollars in cuts which will impact Education, Medicaid and Localities (i.e. County Governments/Services). This could amount up to 30% in financial cuts for the upcoming year which would be devastating. The hope is the Federal Government will provide the State with stimulus funds. The Governor has requested \$61 billion to help with the State's current situation and to help the State until it recovers its tax base once the pandemic ends. I will keep you posted on this matter as more information becomes available.

Please note the following updates:

1. We have tested 1487 individuals, 1301 negative, 136 positive with 50 pending. We received 29 results back as follows: Elective procedure testing 2 with 0 positive, inpatient testing 12 with 1 positive, ED testing 2 with 0 positive and Practices/Quick Care testing 11 with 1 positive. We currently have 0 inpatient positives (the one positive was discharged home) with 9 inpatients pending.
2. Due to the need to test elective surgery/endoscopy persons within 3 days of surgery, we have opened our testing circle on Saturday mornings. Again, for surgical/endoscopy scheduled patients only. The good news is we have 62 scheduled for testing this Saturday, meaning that individuals are willing to start receiving care again in greater numbers.

3. On Thursday, the State Department of Health conducted an un-announced infection control survey of our ECF. They are visiting all nursing homes in the State to ensure compliance to all guidelines for COVID-19 safety. I am pleased to report the survey went exceptionally well. Congratulations once again to our very talented ECF staff for protecting yourselves and our residents. Very awesome!
4. PPE inventory is in reasonably good shape. The purchase and laundering of cloth gowns has really had a positive impact in regards to the throw away isolation gowns. Thank you again to our hard working laundry staff who are laundering these cloth gowns throughout the day, seven days a week. Small size N95 masks remain an issue. Other than that, we are in relatively good shape. Thank you all for helping us get to this point with the stewardship you have shown regarding PPE use.
5. We will soon be releasing guidelines on high touch cleaning. This will include a check sheet on areas that must be cleaned as well as how often. We need to all work together to make this happen.

Thank you very much for continuing to make all of our programs and services work well during this ongoing crisis.

With Sincerest Gratitude,



Gene F. Morreale
President and CEO