



May 18, 2021

Dear Fellow Employees,

Continued wonderful news regarding COVID numbers as well as relief from some of the restrictions that the pandemic has caused for our nation and community.

Please note the following:

1. Masks- As you are aware, the CDC as well as the Department of Health have issued new guidance regarding the requirement to wear a mask in certain settings. As of now, all healthcare facilities where care is delivered still has 100% mask requirements in place. Oneida Health operates two buildings where care is not delivered. The Oxbow building in Canastota as well as the IT space at the Gorman Center in downtown Oneida. The requirement to wear a mask in those settings for employees who have been fully vaccinated has been lifted and it will be up to individuals in those respective areas if they wish to continue to wear their mask. We will continue to provide PPE for those two settings. Again, the remainder of Oneida Health has 100% mask requirements in place for the time being.
2. Elective Procedures- New guidelines have been issued regarding the need to COVID test individuals who are fully vaccinated. Effective immediately, if a patient presenting for an elective procedure has been fully vaccinated (i.e. 14 days post the final dose), the person will not be required to receive a COVID test prior to the procedure. It is important that the provider's office ensure that the potential procedure patient was indeed vaccinated and if confirmed, there will no need to call and schedule an appointment for a test prior to the procedure date. We will continue to perform symptom monitoring on all individuals who present for care. If an individual presents with symptoms even though vaccinated, a COVID test would then be required. I have attached to today's update a short summary of the changes. We are updating the elective procedure document outlining this among other important pre-procedure items and that will be circulated once it is produced by our Marketing Department.
3. COVID 19 Update- We currently have 1 COVID positive admission in the hospital and remain at 0 COVID positives in the ECF. We performed 218 rapid tests yesterday with 2 positives. I have not provided a total update on testing for some time now. The total number of individuals tested is 38,332, 36,154 negative, 2,089 positive, 85 inconclusive and we remain at 20 deaths since the start of the pandemic.

Last week as you are aware, we celebrated National Healthcare Week with a number of events. I hope all of you had a chance to participate and enjoy the week. It was meant to simply recognize the continued wonderful work each and every one of you performs each day for Oneida Health and our patients and residents. I hope you all were able to enjoy the Oneida Health Healthcare Heroes video which was very well done by our Marketing Department.

Thank you for all you do each and every day.

With Sincerest Gratitude,


Gene F. Morreale