



Oneida Health
exceptional care... always

May 20, 2020

Dear Fellow Employee,


I continue to write these updates because of the positive feedback I receive from those who appreciate up to date information. There are days when there is not much new to report, so on those days my correspondence will provide you at minimum, our testing results as well as COVID hospital occupancy numbers.

There are several updates for today:

1. In regards to ECF employee COVID testing, it did start today. Registering all our employees in the Meditech system took a little bit of time, but once registered, the follow-up testing process will be much more efficient. Was reminded by Infection Control, any employee who tests positive will be immediately contacted by the Employee Health office. For negative results, the employee will need to go to the portal to check.
2. The Department of Health and Governor Cuomo has initiated a Pilot Program allowing visitors back into the hospital setting to see hospitalized patients. We are not included in the pilot, so visitor restrictions remain in place. St. Joseph's in Syracuse is one of the hospitals participating in the pilot. Visitors to pilot hospitals must wear a mask as well as have their temperature taken and checked for any other COVID symptoms. The visit will be time limited. I will keep you updated on this. I believe it will be much longer for a visitor pilot for long term care facilities.
3. We have been given approval to start Elective Inpatient surgery. This is good news as some procedures we do here can only be done as inpatient. This is effective immediately.
4. We are very close to offering COVID-19 antibody testing here. We have evaluated several tests available and have chosen to move forward with the Roche Lab test. We are purchasing the required testing cartridges, we will perform the necessary validation of the testing process and once validated, begin to offer it to our patients. It will require a provider order and results will be available timely, as it is an in hospital lab test.
5. We have tested 1690 individuals, 1500 negative, 139 positive with 51 pending results. We received 43 results back today as follows: Elective Procedure testing 19/0 positive, Inpatient 5/0 positive, ED 6/0 positive, and Practice 13/0 positive. We have 0 positive inpatients with 13 inpatients pending results. Hoping that this 0 trend continues!
6. I will provide a PPE update tomorrow. We did receive 48 additional washable gowns. They are being washed and stamped and will be provided to the ECF where we have a number of new admissions on precautions until we clear them to move to their regular long stay or rehab bed.

I know everyone is loving this spring weather we are now seeing. Please enjoy and Thank you!

With Sincerest Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gene F. Morreale". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G" and "M".

Gene F. Morreale
President and CEO