



May 25, 2021

Dear Fellow Employees,

The focus now nationally is to increase the number of individuals fully vaccinated from the COVID-19 virus. In regards to Oneida Health, there remains a good number of staff in all of our locations that have not been vaccinated as of this date. If you continue with that position, we are required to have you complete a declination form which I have attached to today's update. This is a DOH requirement for us to verify that we have pursued your being vaccinated and provided you with sufficient education and that you are continuing to decline the vaccine. If you are an individual who will continue to decline the vaccine, it is your responsibility to complete the attached declination form. Thank you for your cooperation with this requirement.

Please note the following:

1. COVID Positives- It pleases me to report that we have 0 COVID positive inpatients and remain at 0 COVID positive residents in our ECF. In our recent testing we performed 123 rapid tests and 2 of those were positive. 1 from the ED and 1 from the practices. The point is that COVID is still in our community but the good news is the numbers continue to remain low.
2. Masking- As a reminder, even though you have been vaccinated at this time, a mask is still required in all healthcare settings within NYS. Regular hand washing remains the gold standard in protecting yourself, our patients and residents.
3. Hospital Admitted Patients- Up to this point, we have been COVID testing all patients admitted to the hospital. Effective immediately, any patient being admitted who is asymptomatic in regards to COVID symptoms and has been vaccinated, a test is not required. The provider still has the discretion to order a test but it is no longer a requirement. If unvaccinated and being admitted, COVID testing is still a requirement.
4. Visiting Hours- We are evaluating whether now is the time to expand our current visiting hours for the hospital. Currently, the hours where visitors are allowed are between 10am-12pm and 4pm-6pm, seven days per week. There is a likelihood soon that we will increase the hours some to ensure that patients who have family that wishes to visit have adequate access. More to come on this.
5. Individuals Accompanying Patients- Effective immediately, 1 person can accompany a patient presenting here for care. We would still prefer that only the patient receiving the care present but if there is a request for someone to accompany a patient for their procedure and/or outpatient testing, we can allow that. I ask managers to monitor waiting rooms to ensure that we maintain some form of social distancing and that everyone within the facility continues to wear their mask properly. Failure on the part of a visitor to follow our guidelines should result in their being asked to leave.
6. Obstetrics- Currently NYS guidelines allows 1 person and a doula to accompany the laboring patient. We will continue following that guideline and in the event that there is no doula for that

patient, a second individual accompanying the patient is appropriate. This is during the laboring process. Post-delivery, we will maintain that only the spouse/significant other will be allowed to visit until discharge.

We continue to do very well in regards to our care processes and business processes throughout this pandemic. This remains a tribute to all of you who have made that possible. Thank you and please keep up the wonderful work and care you are providing.

For those of you on the fence in regards to receiving the vaccine, please give it serious consideration as studies have proven that the vaccine is safe. As always, I urge you to speak to your provider regarding your choice.

With Sincerest Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gene F. Morreale". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Gene F. Morreale