



May 28, 2020

Dear Fellow Employee,

We continue to do relatively well as an organization during this pandemic. I hope all of you and your family members are holding up well under these circumstances.

As a reminder, the employee resource page on our intranet page has a number of excellent items for your use. This includes Mental Health Resources which include meditation and mindfulness tools, Physical Health Resources including yoga and fitness programs as well as the reference to Clinical Guidance during this pandemic. There is also a feedback form that you can use to share your thoughts and ideas. Please take a few minutes to check it out.

Please note the following updates:

1. We have revised the initial screening form to check patients presenting for care as well as any currently allowed visitors. This form was originally titled the International Screening Form (01450). It has been renamed the Patient/Visitor Screening Form. This is used for all individuals presenting for service/care in all of our locations. This revised form will be sent out today and will be available in approved documents for you to print and utilize. Please use this revised form now and discard the old International Screening form.
2. Rapid Testing for COVID is still some time away for our in-house Laboratory. We are prepared to offer this testing but have not been provided the testing kits. We are thinking not until August even though the rapid testing is available in surrounding hospitals. We requested assistance from Senator Gillibrand's office several weeks ago, but to no avail. This becomes problematic when we have urgent surgery and want to confirm the COVID status of the patient. It also would be useful for elective cases when the results remain pending due to national labs inability to provide results timely.
3. Antibody testing will be available starting June 8th. A separate correspondence from our Laboratory will be sent to providers on guidelines for ordering as well as the cost for the test. Commercial insurers have not communicated that they will reimburse for this test. We are reaching out to them. Medicare and Medicaid will reimburse. We are developing the necessary guidelines and will share with providers sometime next week.
4. PPE is in reasonably good shape. We are not receiving N95 masks which continues to concern us. We have plenty of face shields, so please replace yours as needed. Washable gowns will soon be deployed to Radiology, ICU and more to the ECF. This will continue to help us with conservation of throw away isolation gowns.

5. I have attached to today's update a letter to the editor from the association we are members of. Please take a moment to read it.

6. We have tested a total of 2217 individuals, 2050 negative, 142 positive with 25 pending. We received 189 results back today as follows: Elective Surgery 51/0 positive, Inpatient 9/0 positive, ED 6/0 positive, Practices 1/0 positive and ECF 118/0 positive. We have 1 positive inpatients and 9 inpatients pending.

We are continuing our journey through this pandemic with an end in sight. Please keep your spirits up and be proud of how well we have responded to this crisis.

With Sincerest Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gene F. Morreale".

Gene F. Morreale
President and CEO