



November 10, 2020

Dear Fellow Employees,

I will report below with some numbers and the fact that we are continuing to see an uptick in the number of COVID positive individuals. As you may be aware, portions of Onondaga County are now under yellow zone restrictions. Madison and Oneida County are both seeing increases but are not at the current rate of infection that portions of Onondaga County are. We all need to continue to focus on protecting ourselves as best we can as we continue to navigate through this very challenging pandemic.

Please note the following:

1. Visitor Response Plan- Due to an increase in COVID positive infection rates for our area, we are reverting back to a no visitor policy with state required exceptions. This is effective on Wednesday, November 11 at 7am. I have attached the Visitor Response Plan that we initially began with during the peak of the COVID pandemic (4/13/20). Please discard any other Visitor Response Plans since they have been updated throughout the year and use this plan only. It again is effective this Wednesday and has an effective date on it of 11/11/20.
2. Testing Center- Some of you may realize that our testing center capacity has been reached on most days. The center is currently designed to provide testing for elective procedure patients coming to Oneida Health for their care. In addition, we are servicing individuals from our network of services who are symptomatic and require testing to confirm if they are COVID positive. Please note that we cannot accommodate at this time those individuals requiring testing due to traveling purposes. We also cannot at this time accommodate individuals who want to be tested so they can visit a loved one in a nursing home. We are looking at ways to increase hours to accommodate volume more timely. Further updates will be provided once we can accomplish that additional capacity.
3. Travel Information- Governor Cuomo has announced new guidelines allowing travelers to “test out” of the mandatory 14 day quarantine. Please see the guidelines below as set forth by NYS:
  - A. Travelers, including essential workers, coming from states contiguous to NYS, are exempt from the travel advisory. However, they must continue to complete the Traveler Health Form.
  - B. For any traveler coming to NYS from a non-contiguous state, US Territory or CDC level 2 or 3 country who were out of the state for **MORE** than 24 hours:
    - Travelers must obtain a COVID test within 3 days of departure, prior to arrival in NYS.
    - Upon arrival in NYS, the traveler must quarantine for 3 days.
    - On day 4 of their quarantine, the traveler must obtain another COVID test. If both tests come back negative, the traveler may exit quarantine early upon receipt of the second negative diagnostic test.

- C. For travelers coming to NYS from a non-contiguous state, US Territory or CDC level 2 or 3 country who were out of the state for **LESS** than 24 hours:
- The traveler does not need a test prior to departure from the other state and does not need to quarantine upon arrival in NYS.
  - However, the traveler must fill out the NYS Traveler Form upon entering into NYS, and take a COVID diagnostic test 4 days after their arrival in NYS.

Local Health Departments will validate tests and if a test comes back positive, will issue isolation orders and will initiate contact tracing. All travelers must fill out the State's Traveler Form upon arrival into NYS to contribute to NYS's robust contact tracing program.

4. COVID Vaccine- If you have been following the news, Pfizer has communicated that the vaccine that they have been working on has proven to be 90% effective in their recent trials. It appears the Federal Government will be shipping the vaccine in a matter of days so that when it is fully proven effective and safe, it can be administered quickly. NYS is working on a plan on how they will administer the vaccine throughout the state. No doubt, healthcare workers as well as nursing home residents will be a priority to receive the vaccine when available.
5. COVID Results- We currently have 4 positive inpatients. The ECF continues to remain COVID free. We performed 94 rapid tests yesterday and 4 of those were positive, 2 from Quick Care and 2 from the Emergency Department. We received 16 PCR tests from Quest, all negative. To date, we have tested 15,063 individuals, 14,787 negative, 262 positive and we remain at 3 hospital deaths. We did have a positive flu seen in our Quick Care yesterday.
6. Nurse Practitioner Week- This week we recognize the men and women who function as Nurse Practitioners within the healthcare arena. These men and women provide a valuable service to our communities allowing us to provide more access for community members in both primary and specialty care areas. If you are with a Nurse Practitioner in our network this week, please thank them for all they do for Oneida Health and those we serve.

I will continue with my twice per week updates unless there is breaking news that you should be immediately informed about. As always, your questions and comments are welcome.

With Sincerest Gratitude,



Gene F. Morreale