



**Oneida Health**  
*exceptional care... always*

November 19, 2020

Dear Fellow Employees,

We continue to do well, as well as can be expected during this current pandemic. Our patient care volume, although not back to normal, has been improving and hopefully we will see that continue to improve in the months ahead. We have recently opened our Pulmonary practice on campus and in early January we will be opening our Cardiology practice on campus. Both new practices will help us continue to keep care local and within our network of services. With the hope that the pandemic stays in check until the vaccine becomes readily available, we should be able to move into 2021 in relatively good shape.

Please note the following:

1. Testing Center- We have tried to provide some testing at our Quick Care offices and although we have implemented that, it is the PCR testing only and it is creating a significant burden for our laboratory to ready those specimens and send them to Quest for results. A meeting was held yesterday with key people involved in the Quick Care program as well as the testing center. We are going to revert back to doing all testing in the center and away from Quick Care. This will happen as soon as we can staff up in the testing center to increase hours per day as well as to open on Saturdays. That is the plan and it is totally dependent on our ability to recruit and train the staff for the testing center. The goal is to try to get this done as quickly as possible. I do want to add that we cannot be the testing center for all of Madison and Western Oneida County. We do not have that capability nor the financial wherewithal to accomplish that. Our goal is to ensure that patients within our network of services as well as our employees have adequate access to testing.
2. COVID Testing Results- Not great news in regards to testing. We performed 69 rapid tests yesterday with 2 positive. We received 46 results from Quest yesterday with 6 positives. We currently have 4 COVID positive inpatients. The alarming part is that we now have 293 tests pending with Quest. No doubt a number of those will be positive.

Please continue to watch for information from the CDC as well as the Federal and State Governments. Governor Cuomo continues to do a daily release of information and in his most recent communication, he reports that the statewide infection rate continues to go up. It is currently 3.43% and as you may recall, there was a time when we were below 1% statewide. Portions of the state are in the zones of yellow and orange with Western NY currently in the orange because of a 5.1% rate and the Finger Lakes close behind at a 4.3% rate. Here in Madison County, we remain below the threshold for the yellow designation.

Thank you for continuing to keep your guard up and protect yourself from this very contagious virus.  
Lets hope that the next week or so quiets down a bit and we can see some relief at the end of the year.

Thank you for all you do for our patients, residents and each other.

With Sincerest Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gene F. Morreale". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Gene F. Morreale