



Oneida Health
exceptional care... always

November 3, 2020

Dear Fellow Employees,

The day that we have been hearing about for many months is here, that is, Election Day. It is my hope that once the dust settles from this election, we can get on with the business at hand and work to reduce the COVID virus infection amongst our population and figure out how to restart our economy for all areas of the country.

Please note the following:

1. PPE- Our PPE remains in relatively good shape with a few exceptions. Our group purchasing company Medline will be distributing to us our new allocation for the month of November which will help restore some of the usage that we have seen over the last month. We continue to work daily on securing necessary PPE for our organization.
2. COVID Positives- We currently have 2 COVID positive inpatients recently admitted through the Emergency Department. Madison County has informed us that they are averaging about 5 new COVID positive cases per day, most being from community spread due to difficulty isolating in the person's home. Our infection rate county wide was 1.1% during the month of October and in November to date it is 3.8%. Please be aware that the virus continues to be in the community and please take all precautions to protect yourself.
3. Testing Center- The testing center is now functioning very well. The staff in our testing center have risen to the occasion. In addition, we are now performing the rapid test in the testing center resulting in a very good turn-around time. The testing center currently sees elective surgery patients in the morning and then accommodates symptomatic patients in the afternoon. Today we will see 72 patients which is a full schedule for the center. We are seeing a greater number of symptomatic patients presenting versus elective procedure patients at this time.
4. Travel Requirements- The Governor has made changes for those coming to NYS from other states. As a result, upon return from travel to any state, each employee must be tested prior to returning to work. Please note that the Employee Health office will be closed on Thanksgiving as will our Quick Care services. The only testing available on that day will be through our Emergency Department.
5. COVID Results- We received 89 negative rapid tests from yesterday. In addition, we received 21 negative results from Quest. We currently only have 10 pending tests out to Quest. We have tested a total of 14,306 individuals, 14,056 negative, 234 positive and we remain at 3 hospital deaths. Today is the date that we will be testing once again all ECF employees.

As a reminder, there is still ample time for you to receive your flu vaccine. We continue to await word from the DOH regarding the COVID 19 vaccine availability. We registered to be a vaccine sight for our employees, residents and patients. More to come on this as information is made available to us.

Thank you for your continued excellent work. Feel free to direct any questions or comments to my attention at anarrow@oneidahealthcare.org.

With Sincerest Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gene F. Morreale", with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gene F. Morreale