



November 30, 2020

Dear Fellow Employees,

We continue to see a spike not only in our immediate area, but throughout the state. The Governor stated yesterday in his update that statewide we did 157,000 tests yesterday and 6,723 positives were received. The statewide rate currently sits at 3.5% with Western NY leading the way at 6.6%.

Please note the following:

1. PPE- We are continuing to be ok in regards to our overall PPE inventory. The same problem continues with small N95 masks and we are working to secure more. We ordered more of the ear loop masks as a result of our ensuring that cloth masks are not worn within our organization. Please ensure you have adequate ear loop masks for patients who present wearing cloth masks. I also ask that you please safe guard these masks so that we do not burn through them due to waste or theft.
2. COVID 19 Update- We currently have 8 COVID positive inpatients and we now have 8 COVID positive ECF residents. All positive patients and residents are isolated per our Infection Control policy. The focus is trying to keep the same staff caring for these patients/residents as much as possible. The DOH has communicated that staff should not be floated in or floated out of COVID positive isolation units.
3. COVID 19 Testing Results- We performed 11 rapid tests yesterday, 2 were positive. We had received 22 positives from Quest, the majority coming from our practices including Quick Care. We currently have 214 tests pending with Quest, some dating back to 11/23. We continue to contact Quest and ask that they process our testing but they appear to be overwhelmed with the amount of tests they are receiving nationally and therefore the turn-around time remains problematic. As I mentioned in a previous communication, we are working with another company that promises a no more than a 48 hour turn-around time. That process continues to be worked on so that we can transition away from Quest at this time.
4. Face Shields- The state recently announced that face shields and/or goggles must be worn in the ECF. As you are aware, we implemented that months ago. I raise this as it remains very important that we utilize face shields especially when in the area that patient care is provided. The face shield again provides protection from droplets entering your facial area as well as another barrier to prevent droplets from leaving you and entering the air. This remains an airborne virus.

Due to our current higher volume of COVID positive patients and residents, we must focus on our approach to delivering care. It is so important that we not spread this virus unknowingly within our healthcare organization. Please continue wearing your PPE appropriately and washing your hands with

soap and water throughout the day. We need to do all things possible to protect ourselves, our co-workers and our patients and residents.

Thank you once again for all you do during this very difficult and challenging pandemic.

With Sincerest Gratitude,



Gene F. Morreale

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