



October 1, 2020

Dear Fellow Employee,

If you have been listening to the local news, you would have heard about potential exposures in Oneida County mainly due to individuals who were symptomatic not following proper quarantine protocols. We have no control over what others do and can only control our own actions which are to protect ourselves and when ill, take the necessary steps to be seen by a medical provider, to be tested and to self-quarantine.

Please note the following updates:

1. Campus Employee Gym- As you know our gym has been closed since the pandemic. Looking through the requirements to reopen, it appears that we will not be meeting the standards for reopening. The significant issue is to have Merv 13 or greater air filters within the gym. In checking with our landlord, we are not equipped with that level of filter and to implement that type of filtration would require the total replacement of the building's HVAC system. As a result, we are evaluating next steps as it pertains to the gym space. Once we determine our options, I will communicate that to you.
2. ED Visits- I have received a summary report for our region's Emergency Department visits by hospital from Albany to Rochester. The data reflects a significant impact caused by the pandemic in regards to volume of patients treated in the ED. When comparing 6 months of 2019 to 6 months of 2020, the regional numbers are down from 528,805 in 2019 to 398,526 in 2020 (-24.6%). For ED patients treated and admitted the volume in 2019 was 102,314 versus 88,456 in 2020, a reduction of 13.6%. For Oneida Health, our 2019 volume was 9,882 and our 2020 volume was 8,365 patients treated and released, a reduction of 15.4%. Our admissions however went up 1.1% from 751 in 2019 to 759 ED admissions in 2020. Our overall rate for patients treated in the ED went down 14.2% comparing 2019 to 2020. The pandemic has created a shortfall in visits and also has complicated treatment as many patients have waited too long to receive care in an ED. Our ED volume today remains up and down in regards to daily trends.
3. Joint Commission- Due to our current no volume of COVID positive patients, we have been notified by the Joint Commission that they will be visiting our hospital Lab within the next 7-10 days. We actually expect the visit to occur next Monday. The Joint Commission is the national firm that provides review and accreditation of many hospitals throughout the country including ours. We look forward to their visit in the Lab as our Laboratory has worked very hard throughout this year and past years to offer quality, competent laboratory services. This should be reflected in the upcoming survey results.
4. PPE- We remain with an adequate supply of PPE to meet the needs of our staff. The KN95 vendor is shipping a new order of KN95 masks and we are awaiting tracking information. Our volume on KN95 masks is very low at this time. The hope is that this new order will be delivered

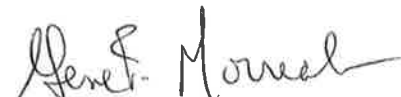
within the next several days. We are also awaiting an update from our vendor on N95 duck-bill masks which we would like to order. We are waiting for sample masks to test them to make sure they meet the standards necessary to protect our staff. We have received an adequate supply of COVID rapid testing materials so we will be in good shape in regards to our ability to perform rapid testing moving forward.

5. COVID Testing Results- The news on this front continues to be positive. We continue with no COVID positive inpatients or COVID positive ECF residents. Since Tuesday's update, we received a good number of results, all negative. Our totals now are 11,606 individuals tested, 11,212 negative, 212 positive and 176 pending. We remain at 3 hospital deaths. Again, very solid results in regards to our testing of individuals from our community and surrounding areas.
6. Testing Circle- Due to the upcoming weather issues, our testing circle will be moved from the front of the hospital circle to the former Business Office building. The move will occur on Friday afternoon and we will open up for business on Monday morning at 8:30 am. Testing in the circle will continue this Saturday and then the circle for all intents and purposes will be closed for testing and all testing will be done at the new location. Signage will be placed to direct individuals presenting for testing. In the new location we will be equipped to do COVID and flu swabbing and soon to be providing strep swabbing for that culture. More information regarding when strep swabbing will be available at the testing center will be provided soon.

There continues to be no significant issues for our organization in regards to treatment of members of our community. As issues surface, it is important that they be communicated so that they can be adequately addressed. As a reminder, questions or concerns can be forwarded to anarrow@oneidahealthcare.org and we will respond as soon as possible to any matters presented.

Thank you once again for the wonderful care and service you are providing our patients and this organization.

With Sincerest Gratitude,



Gene F. Morreale