



October 12, 2020

Dear Fellow Employee,

I thought it important that I provide an update today rather than waiting until tomorrow. I specifically wanted to address how we have complied with the organizations PPE requirement. A number of areas within our organization have been identified as not completely wearing all of the required PPE when providing patient care. It is important that each and every one of us wears not only a mask but also the face shield when delivering patient care. The face shield not only protects your eyes but also protects the mask which you obviously handle throughout the day when putting it on and taking it off. It is each of our obligation to follow this requirement until such time that the virus becomes less of a risk for us and our patients.

Please note the following:

1. Per the Governor's update on Sunday, we are on day 225 of the pandemic. Our statewide rate of infection without hotspots is .84% and with hotspots is .96%. The hotspots in the state are in the downstate area as well as Western NY. The problem in Western NY is no cluster has been identified which makes it more difficult to control.
2. COVID Results- We have had 2 positives recently. As a result, 1 COVID positive patient is currently hospitalized. The second was diagnosed in the ED and was sent home to recover. We have tested 12,473 individuals, 12,172 negative, 213 positive and we currently have 82 pending. We remain at 3 hospital deaths and continue with 0 COVID infections in our ECF. Please understand that although the rate of COVID is low, it remains in our community and protecting oneself is important.
3. PPE- Some good news on the PPE front. We received the duck-bill N95 samples and are currently testing to ensure proper fit. Once we have determined that, we will place an order to improve our current inventory of N95 masks. We also received some small teal N95's which will help us through the next 1-2 months. Thank you to our Purchasing Department for continuing to secure the required PPE.
4. Central Sterile Week- We talk often about controlling the spread of infection by hand washing. Another important area for our organization is our Central Sterile service which as the name implies, sterilizes the equipment and items used to care for patients. As Deb Brais, the CS Manager mentioned this morning in her email, although the Central Sterile professionals work behind the scenes, they work tirelessly to ensure that we have consistently clean, sterile, and well- functioning instruments and equipment. Thank you to our awesome Central Sterile staff for helping us protect our patients.

I will close again with a reminder of the importance of following our PPE requirements for patient care. If there is a reason that you cannot comply, please communicate that to your manager.

Thank you again for the exceptional care you provide our patients and residents.

With Sincerest Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gene F. Morreale". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "G" and "M".

Gene F. Morreale