



October 15, 2020

Dear Fellow Employees,

Per today's Governor's conference call, the hot zone or referred to as the red zone infection rate stands at 4.84%. New York State without the red zones is .99% and with the red zones is 1.09%. There were 13 statewide deaths yesterday. In regards to the school dashboards, there were 131 COVID positive test results from 111 schools, 95 onsite and 36 offsite. Bottom line, we continue to battle this virus and this pandemic and hopefully we will eventually win this battle.

Please note the following:

1. Face shields- Received some feedback regarding the difficulty that the face shields create for those individuals who wear glasses. Basically, the glare is the number one issue. As a result, we are evaluating the market to determine if we could locate anti-glare type face shields as the face shield itself provides significant protection versus goggles and masks. Until that time, goggles will be permitted to be worn over glasses as I am told that does not result in glare. It is important that the face mask be worn and in the event that you are taking care of a symptomatic patient, the N95 covered by an ear loop mask is required. My hope is to find a face shield that works as I again feel that it provides optimum protection for our staff taking care of symptomatic patients as well as those that are COVID positive. Otherwise, PPE continues as reported on Tuesday with no glaring issues at this time.
2. Patient Testing Center- two items in regards to our center:
 - a. First, if you are not a Medent user, you will need to go onto the Oneida Health website under resources and click on the COVID testing form. Complete that form and hit the submit button. We will soon be turning off the fax machine for those individuals who are submitting forms via fax and therefore, your patients will not be able to be tested without completion of this electronic form. This is being done to promote quality and completeness of the documentation as well as improve efficiency for our testing center staff.
 - b. Secondly, this coming Monday we will begin using rapid testing in the patient testing center. That will help immensely in our turn-around time for patient results versus the tests that have previously been sent to Quest.
3. Received some positive feedback from a number of individuals regarding the letters sent to us from students from the North Broad St Elementary School. Two additional letters were received addressed to Oneida Healthcare Doctors. I have attached those letters to today's update for your enjoyment.
4. COVID Testing Results- We performed 29 rapid tests, all negative and have received 2 results from Quest, both negative. We have 202 tests pending with Quest, the majority being our ECF staff. We currently do not have any COVID positive inpatients. No other update at this time.

5. Flu Shots- We received a second shipment of our flu shots and are now offering those to spouses of staff. Kelly Woodcock, our Infection Control nurse has sent correspondence regarding times that flu shots are available for spouses. Please take advantage of this process for your spouse versus going to a local pharmacy or some other outlet that will charge us not only the cost of the vaccine but also their add on costs. This is free to our employees and their spouse/significant other.

6. A few miscellaneous updates:
 - Congratulations to our Wound Care program for having a very successful accreditation survey. The surveyor was very positive about our Wound Care staff's performance as well as our ability to provide quality care.
 - We had a brief ribbon cutting ceremony at our Camden location where we recognized the formal opening of our primary care practice which is being staffed by Jessica Donaldson, FNP. We currently have at the Camden location our Quick Care, GYN services through Mickey Moore, NP, lab draw, imaging including ultrasound and now we have the full time family medicine practice. The family practice is supervised by Dr. Harry Capone.

Please remember that we have the Employee Resource page on our website for your access. In addition, please know that your comments and questions are always welcome and you can send them to anarrow@oneidahealthcare.org.

With Sincerest Gratitude,



Gene F. Morreale