



October 6, 2020

Dear Fellow Employee,

Per the Governor's update yesterday, we are on day 219 of the pandemic. The statewide COVID positive rate is 1.22% which is slightly higher than what we have encountered in the recent past. Without the hotspots which are basically New York City, we are at 1.01% statewide. It appears that other areas of the world are continuing to see a spike in COVID positive cases. Again, this is the time that we need to continue to focus on protecting ourselves, our co-workers as well as our patients and residents.

Please note the following:

1. PPE- Great news in that the KN95 masks that we ordered have shipped this morning from Tennessee and hoping we will receive those sometime today or tomorrow. That will allow us to restock our supply of the KN95 masks. I continue to communicate with our statewide organization regarding the need to produce more N95 masks, in particular the small size. Not only are we struggling to receive a good supply of the N95's, we are paying high prices for those masks. I would think if we were to increase production they would be more readily available and pricing would go down somewhat.
2. Sanitizers- A shipment of the new alcohol based hand sanitizers has been delivered and our talented maintenance team will be installing those throughout the organization. Soap and water remains the gold standard but please use the hand sanitizers as appropriate.
3. Testing Site- Congratulations to our team for successfully relocating the COVID testing area to the former Business Office space. Hopefully you have noticed the signage that we have put throughout the campus to alert people that the location has changed. We have a great group of individuals working out of the testing center and volume continues to be strong for COVID testing. We continue to see an increase in referrals from our practices. We are continuing to move forward with offering not only COVID testing at the center but also flu and soon strep swabbing. In the event that the patient needs to be tested for all three, our testing center has been identified as the location for that. Additional information will be provided when we are ready to start strep swabbing down in the center. We will now do both a COVID and flu test at our center.
4. Employee Health- The Employee Health office is busy today providing flu shots to our employees. I am told so far demand has been high and I'm happy to report that. Please note that if you are ill, the Employee Health office is no longer providing COVID test swabbing. Any ill employee should still notify the Employee Health office (315-361-2907) and will be referred to their primary care provider or to Quick Care for testing and treatment. We have set up testing for employees not only at Quick Care but also in our testing center as that is the safest and most appropriate way to accomplish that testing. Our ED is also available to do testing when Quick Care is closed. Coordinating any testing with your primary care provider is the best approach as

an order is necessary in order to perform testing. In the event that your primary care provider is not available, feel free, use Quick Care for that service.

5. COVID Results- We have performed a number of rapid tests and had 1 positive who happens to be an employee. Otherwise, we received 113 test results from Quest, all negative as well as 27 negative rapid tests. To date, we have tested 11,934 individuals, 11,721 negative, 213 positive and we have 28 tests pending. We continue with 3 hospital deaths and no COVID positive ECF residents. There are no COVID positive inpatients nor has the ED had a COVID positive patient in well over a month.
6. Employee Assistance Program- Attached is a one page flyer detailing the types of issues that our Bridges EAP professional is available to assist any of us with. Please review the flyer and post in your work area for those who may not be aware of this service.

As I stated in the opening paragraph, the challenge to protect oneself and family members as well as co-workers and patients is still there for us. It is of utmost importance that you all follow the required PPE guidelines and do all you can to protect yourself. Washing hands frequently continues to be very important.

We will get through this and again, my appreciation for all you have done to date to help us through this pandemic.

With Sincerest Gratitude,



Gene F. Morreale