



Oneida Health
exceptional care... always

September 17, 2020

Dear Fellow Employee,

There have been several changes communicated to us by the Governor regarding long term care visitation which I will summarize below. Otherwise, things are as normal as can be under the current situation.

Please note the following updates:

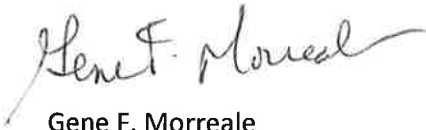
1. PPE- The hand sanitizer issue continues to be a difficult challenge for us. Our current provider as I have stated previously has not been responsive in regards to providing us with a delivery of additional sanitizer. A new provider has been responsive but will result in a significant amount of work in that we would have to remove all of the wall unit hand sanitizer devices and replace them with a different brand. We continue to evaluate this and will make a decision shortly. Our goal is to continue to have an adequate supply of alcohol based hand sanitizer throughout our network.
2. ECF Visitation- The state has allowed for visitation even if the facility has a COVID positive resident as long as they go 14 days without another COVID positive staff member or resident. On the 15th day, visitation can begin. Numerous restrictions continue on long term care visitation including a new one which is that anyone visiting in a long term care facility will have to have a negative COVID test within 7 days of the planned visit. As you can imagine, this provides another challenge for family members as well as a cost as they are not being tested due to being symptomatic, they are being tested because of state regulation meaning insurance will most likely not cover the test. We continue through our lobby groups to try to get this requirement removed but with all the focus on nursing home deaths in NYS, I'm sure the Health Department as well as the Governor's office are being very careful on exposing residents to potential COVID infection. New guidelines will be issued by our ECF Administrative team and we will share those with all of you so you are aware in case members of your family or members of the community should question you. Look for those next week.
3. COVID 19 Results- We are seeing a small uptick in the number of COVID tests for symptomatic practice patients. We did receive 1 positive COVID result from a practice patient yesterday. We now have tested 10,583 individuals, 10,205 negative, 212 positive and we now have 160 tests pending with the majority being ECF staff testing done on September 15. We continue with 3 hospital deaths due to COVID and no ECF residents have been COVID positive as of this date. We currently do not have any employees who are COVID positive.
4. Travel Restrictions- The Governor has added one territory and removed states from the quarantine requirement. Puerto Rico was added and those states removed include California, Hawaii, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada and Ohio.

5. Flu Shots- Just a quick reminder that we are working very hard to make access to flu shots easy for all employees. Our goal is to come as close as possible to 100% compliance to flu shots this year. Please consider getting your flu shot. As I have stated previously, it will help protect yourself, your co-workers as well as our patients and residents.

6. Environmental Services Week- This week we are recognizing and honoring the workers from our Environmental Services Department. As you may be aware, we have received positive feedback from patients and visitors in regards to how clean our facility looks and how well maintained it is. Of course, all of us should take pride in that as we all own part of that, but having said that, our EVS team has always performed at a very high level and that is reflected in our low infection rates as well as the positive comments from many. Please take a moment and recognize our Environment Services workers and thank them for the job they do each day to keep us clean and safe.

That is all I have to report today. I will once again Thank You all for continuing to keep our organization in great shape in regards to preventing the spread of infection. We need to continue that throughout our organization and especially with flu season beginning soon.

With Sincerest Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gene F. Morreale". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Gene F. Morreale