



Oneida Health
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September 24, 2020

Dear Fellow Employee,

I will open today's update with a joint statement from the American Hospital Association, the American Medical Association and American Nurses Association. Their statement is "We mark a somber milestone as more than 200,000 people in the United States have died of COVID 19 over the course of the epidemic. The steps required to stop the spread of this virus should be well known by now with more than 6 million COVID positive Americans, we say again: wear your mask, wash your hands and practice physical distancing."

This pandemic continues to create issues for our country and its citizens and we as healthcare workers need to do our part to prevent further spread of this virus. Please follow the recommendations noted in the above statement. In addition, with the flu season soon upon us, it is very important that we participate in the vaccination program so that we can do our part in preventing the flu from creating a similar type of outcome for our community members. Please encourage family, friends and neighbors to get their flu shots.

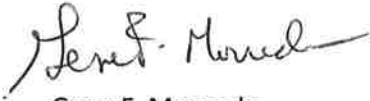
Please note the following:

1. PPE- We have decided to purchase the newer alcohol based hand sanitizer resulting in our having to replace each of the hand sanitizer stations throughout the organization. Work on that will start sometime next week. The good news is that we will have a sufficient supply of the alcohol based hand sanitizer to protect you and our patients and residents. In addition, we are hoping to receive a new shipment of KN95 masks within the next 7-10 days. That is very important as we will be running out of the current supply of KN95's meaning that we could have to revert to loop masks. Our goal is to have those KN95's in as soon as possible.
2. COVID Testing Circle- We are preparing to move the testing circle into our former Business Office space. The facility has been readied for that and we will announce its opening soon. We are planning for an October 5 open date. Signage will be placed on campus as well as on the building notifying individuals on where to go if they need to be tested. We are also looking at the feasibility of doing flu testing as well as strep testing through the new location. We need to review current requirements for staff to perform the swabbing for those 3 exams before making a decision. That is currently being evaluated.
3. COVID Results- The news continues to be positive. Testing through today from the last report on Tuesday shows no positive results. In total we have tested 11,069 individuals, 10,682 negative, 212 positive and we currently have 169 pending. No COVID positive inpatients, no COVID positive ED patients and no COVID positive ECF residents. We are seeing an uptick in referrals from our practices for testing which indicates that more people are presenting with symptoms. Even so, the negative results are a positive trend.

Looks like we will have a wonderful weather weekend coming up so I hope many of you will be able to enjoy one of the nice weather weekends remaining this year. For those who must work, Thank You for being here for our patients and residents and know that your efforts are greatly appreciated.

We continue to excel as an organization in our battle with COVID which is a true testament of you as a member of our team. Thank You and keep up the great work.

With Sincerest Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gene F. Morreale". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Gene F. Morreale