



September 29, 2020

Dear Fellow Employee,

Many of us who will be off tonight will have the opportunity to watch the Presidential debate. I hope we will learn more about the candidates as it relates to the economy as well as the pandemic and many other issues that we currently face in our country today.

On the NYS front, the COVID infection rate has risen to 1.5% which is much higher than it has been statewide in sometime. Parts of the mid-Hudson Valley, Southern Tier as well as New York City have had spikes in COVID positive individuals impacting our statewide number. As you may have heard on the news yesterday, Vice President Pence acknowledged that over the next two weeks we should see a spike in COVID cases. With this as a backdrop, please continue to do what you have been doing over the course of this pandemic protecting yourself and your family members as well as your co-workers, patients and residents. Proper PPE, hand washing and social distancing continue to play an important role in preventing the spread of COVID in our area.

Please note the following:

1. PPE- We have once again notified the DOH that we have not met the 90 day inventory requirement for the hospital nor the 60 day PPE inventory requirement for the ECF. The two areas where we are short are Nitrile gloves and small size N95 masks. We currently have a 38 day supply of Nitrile gloves. In addition, we are running very low on KN95 masks with a little over 100 left. We had ordered 5000, but the vendor sent us a different type of KN95 masks that did not pass our testing requirements. Therefore, we are returning those masks and waiting for delivery from the same vendor for the KN95 masks that we have used since the start of the pandemic. Conservation continues to be key to our continued success in this area. Thank you for your assistance in helping us conserve this valuable supply.
2. On October 6, the flu buggy will be out and about and flu shots will be readily available for staff. I strongly encourage you to avail yourself of the flu shot to help protect yourself, your co-workers, and our patients and residents during this upcoming flu season. We will be faced with the potential for 3 illnesses that could impact us over the next number of months including COVID, flu and strep. Interesting times to say the least. Doing all you can to protect yourselves during these coming months is key to our continued success.
3. ECF Visitation- As had been previously communicated, visitors are once again allowed in the ECF to visit their loved ones. The newest requirement is that not only do they need to be symptom free as verified upon their visit, but visitors also need to have a negative COVID test within a week of their scheduled visit. We have received a number of calls from family members asking if we will provide the COVID test here. At this time, we are not in a position to be offering that testing to ECF visitors. There is no medical indication for this exam as it is a state mandate only. Most insurers have informed us that the probability of reimbursing us for that testing is low.


With that said, we cannot absorb further revenue loss from this testing service. I have attached a letter from our ECF Administrator that was sent to family members that explains where they can find locations to receive this state mandated testing. Our position on this matter may change in the future depending on whether the insurers are required to pay for this testing absent medical indication.

4. COVID 19 Results- Wonderful news today in regards to testing results. We have performed hundreds of tests since my last update and all have been negative. Our totals include testing 11,399 individuals, 11,159 negative, 212 positive with only 22 pending. We remain at 3 hospital deaths and no positive COVID individuals at our ECF. There currently are no COVID positive inpatients, nor has the ED seen a COVID positive patient in well over a month. This is great news for our region and hopefully that trend will continue for us.

We continue to recover from the pandemic's impact on our network of services. We have a number of new physicians and Advance Practice Providers joining us this month which will no doubt help us continue to meet the needs of our community and grow the care provided locally. Information regarding the newest members of our Medical Staff will be disseminated by the Marketing Department soon.

Please accept my continued appreciation for the fine work that you are doing these days in meeting our patients and residents needs. Patient satisfaction continues to be very high and outcomes continue to be very good.

With Sincerest Gratitude,



Gene F. Morreale