



October 29, 2021

Dear Fellow Employees,

A good Friday to you all. There is continued review of the religious exemption and updated information I received includes the presentation of the Department of Health appeal that allows the exemption to remain in place. My early read from the appeal review comments is that the three judges on the panel have commented that it is appropriate for states to mandate certain regulations in particular during an emergency or crisis. Although no formal release has been made as to the outcome of the appeal, early indications are that we may lose that exemption for the 40 staff members who are currently working here under that. I will continue to keep you apprised of the outcome of that appeal process.

We are currently at 7 COVID positive inpatients and remain at 0 in the ECF. The majority of residents have received their booster shots this week. The number of positives that we have seen recently is down compared to the high numbers we have been seeing over the last two weeks. We can only hope that the downward trend continues.

As mentioned in my last update, if you are interested in receiving the booster vaccine, please contact Victoria Milazzo in the Employee Health office at [vmilazzo@oneidahealthcare.org](mailto:vmilazzo@oneidahealthcare.org) and let her know if you prefer the Moderna, Pfizer or the Johnson and Johnson booster vaccine. Once we have a good number, we will secure the necessary booster shots and set up a booster clinic. That should happen relatively soon.

We continue to work on setting up the COVID testing center on campus. The hope is next week we will have staff in place and can begin to offer that service to our patients as well as community members. Please be on the lookout for an update on that early next week.

I have attached a flyer to today's update entitled "24 Hour Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Crisis Numbers." Please feel free to make a copy of this and post in your area as well as share this information with family and friends. Some could benefit from mental health support during these challenging times.

I will close with the pumpkin contest going on in our café. You should have received an email that allows you to view the pumpkins and cast a vote. What a wonderful event this has turned out to be. It appears that we have some very talented staff as the decorated pumpkins are well done.

Thank you all for your continued excellent efforts to meet the needs of our community members.

With Sincerest Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Gene F. Morreale'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Gene F. Morreale