



for immediate release – Dec. 1, 2020

UAHS UPDATES ON COVID-19

OLEAN, N.Y (December 1, 2020) – Upper Allegheny Health System today released the following statement and updates regarding the COVID-19 pandemic:

COVID-19 positive cases within the community and at our hospitals continue to rise consistent with hospitals everywhere. Currently, we still have enough capacity to run day-to-day operations and, at the same time, care for COVID-19 patients while keeping patients and our workforce safe. At this time, elective surgery at both Bradford Regional Medical Center (BRMC) and Olean General Hospital (OGH) continue.

We do not expect COVID patients to come to OGH or BRMC from Erie County (NY) as a result of Gov. Cuomo’s announcement Monday. We are in continual communication with Kaleida Health relative to COVID-19 patient status and daily review of bed capacity. Currently, Kaleida hospitals have COVID-19 patients, including OGH, which had 19 COVID positive patients Tuesday. BRMC has four.

While we recognize the increase in hospitalizations in Pennsylvania and New York, OGH and BRMC are in good shape in regards to bed capacity at this time. Like all hospital systems, the key to dealing with the pandemic is having adequate staffing, sufficient testing capacity, and space planning efforts as well as supplies and equipment. Our biggest priority is to protect our staff so they can protect patients. Staff at all hospitals have been impacted by COVID. At this time, the number of hospitalized patients is manageable.

Both hospitals have a full supply of PPE for 90 days and are fully capable of ramping up COVID-19 bed capacity within 48 hours, as we did in the spring, if we experience a surge.

Both Olean and Bradford benefit from the fact that OGH has an ICU staffed by intensivists, specialists in the care of critically ill patients, which is unique for a rural hospital. Over the course of the pandemic, our patient care teams have become very proficient in caring for COVID patients. Fortunately, we are not seeing the demand nor need for as much ICU utilization as we had back in the spring. That said, this does not diminish the seriousness of the situation.

We continue to measure and monitor the daily impact of increasing cases on our hospital system capacity.

These are difficult times for everyone in healthcare, and we commend our staff and physicians for their humanity, courage, and commitment to our communities.

While we are confident in dealing with this second wave, we still need the community's help. Wear your masks, social distance, wash your hands and avoid gatherings; if not for anything else, to help protect the frontline healthcare workers who deal with COVID-19 every day.

CORONAVIRUS STATISTICS AS OF 1:00 P.M. TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2020:

BRADFORD REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Inpatients: 4 confirmed cases currently in-house (2 in ICU, 2 in medical unit)

5 patients in-house that are under investigation

9 additional patients were tested but are negative

OLEAN GENERAL HOSPITAL

Inpatients: 19 confirmed cases currently in-house (2 in ICU, 17 in medical unit)

2 patients in-house that are under investigation

14 additional patients were tested but are negative

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Chief Medical Officer

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