Dear ESF Community,

The following information is excerpted from a report shared with the Upstate community today to provide an at-a-glance update of the COVID-19 situation. The information has value for the ESF community as well.

Sincerely,
Dave Amberg
Interim President
03/14/2020

Current Situation

—No confirmed COVID-19 cases at Upstate, community, or clinics as of March 14, 2020.

—Several inpatients and outpatients are currently being ruled out.

—It is generally accepted that there are cases in our community; expect a confirmed case soon.

—Today, Upstate opened a public triage line dedicated to COVID-19 questions and screening.

—The staff and student COVID-19 hotline is: 315-464-THEM.

Calls to action

—Staff should practice heightened precautions: hand washing and staying home when sick.

—Staff should begin practicing social distancing now. Professionally that means we should move to web-based/remote meetings, except when absolutely necessary to meet face-to-face. Personally, we should avoid large crowds to protect ourselves, our patients and staffing levels.

Testing Updates

—Our tests are currently being processed through Wadsworth in Albany.

—Upstate is working to develop onsite testing capability; timeline is forthcoming.
—Current procedures for testing are as follows: no approval needed from Infectious Diseases to order COVID-19 screening test; any physician can order (including residents); lab will perform respiratory viral panel first and then reflex to COVID-19 test if negative or strong clinical suspicion.

—Expanded capacity for performing viral panels is expected next week.

**Next efforts**

—Work with county to establish alternate triage sites (including Syracuse Community Health Center) for triage and testing.