

UPSTATE
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
Office of the Chief Executive Officer



November 3, 2021

We all are aware of the national health care workforce shortage, which has had a significant impact on medical institutions across the country and here at Upstate.

We remain committed to meeting the needs of the Central New York community, while prioritizing patient safety, quality of care, and staff retention. Our leadership team meets frequently to examine staffing ratios, so that we can best adjust our capacity to align with the appropriate staffing level to provide the safest and best care.

Based on our current staffing levels, we will adjust our staffed beds to 544, effective Nov. 3rd 2021

Our staffed bed reductions/capacity across the organization will include:

Adult Med/Surg 25, Adult ICU 10, Pediatric Med/Surg 7, Pediatric ICU 5, Inpatient rehabilitation 3. There will be no reduction in Psychiatry beds at this time. Emergency Department beds will be adjusted daily according to staffing and acuity.

We will make additional adjustments to our scheduled OR volumes as well, targeting requests for post-operative inpatient beds at 35 for adults and 7 for pediatrics.

There is hope on the horizon. There has been advocacy on behalf of our staff at the State and SUNY levels.

Some progress has been made. We have secured favorable over time increases, more competitive traveler rates and other improvements. More than 70 support roles have been created to offload tasks from our frontline staff. We have hired additional travelers to start later this month and are onboarding and orienting new nurses and ancillary staff. We anticipate these additional hires will have a positive impact on our operations in the weeks to come. Our advocacy efforts continue on behalf of our employees for further initiatives to expand and support staff.

We are also committed to increasing our functional capacity through initiatives to streamline operations and improve patient throughput. We are focused on earlier discharges for patients who are medically ready to leave the hospital, efficient utilization of our operating rooms and disciplined vetting of transfers.

We revisit our staff numbers daily and are committed to restoration of full operations and capacity as soon as we can safely do so.

In closing, we want to thank you for your work in frontline clinical care and for your support of the operational changes that are needed to meet current workforce challenges. These are unprecedented times for health care, and we appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Corona, DO, MBA
Chief Executive Officer

Scott Jessie, MSN, RN, NEA-BC
Chief Nursing Officer

Amy Tucker, MD, MHCM
Chief Medical Officer

Marilyn Galimi, BS, CHOP
Chief Operating Officer