

April 29, 2022



To All Staff

PLEASE READ THE ENTIRE NEWSLETTER FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON COVID. THIS IS THE PRIMARY MEANS OF COMMUNICATION ON THIS TOPIC.

Changes in the information below are highlighted in green.



CDC RECOMMENDS ADDITIONAL BOOSTERS FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS

Source- CDC Website: “Data continue to show the importance of vaccination and booster doses to protect individuals both from infection and severe outcomes of COVID-19. For adults and adolescents eligible for a first booster dose, these shots are safe and provide substantial benefit. During the recent Omicron surge, those who were boosted were 21-times less likely to die from COVID-19 compared to those who were unvaccinated, and 7-times less likely to be hospitalized. CDC continues to recommend that all eligible adults, adolescents, and children 5 and older be up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines, which includes getting an initial booster when eligible.

Following FDA’s regulatory action, the CDC is updating its recommendations to allow certain immunocompromised individuals and people over the age of 50 who received an initial booster dose at least 4 months ago to be eligible for another mRNA booster to increase their protection against severe disease from COVID-19. Separately and in addition, based on newly published data, adults who received a primary vaccine and booster dose of Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen COVID-19 vaccine at least 4 months ago may now receive a second booster dose using an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.

These updated recommendations acknowledge the increased risk of severe disease in certain populations including those who are elderly or over the age of 50 with multiple underlying conditions, along with the currently available data on vaccine and booster effectiveness.

Good Shepherd is reviewing options to provide on-site clinics for interested residents who meet the eligibility criteria listed above. More information will follow soon.

INITIAL VACCINES/BOOSTER CLINICS

GSC still strongly urges all staff to receive the FIRST booster when they are eligible to protect themselves, our residents, our staff and the greater community, and those who are eligible can also receive their SECOND booster on site.

Interested staff should complete and return a consent form today. And please remember to bring your vaccinations cards to the clinic.

GS Village Endwell: 5/9/22 11am

The Medicine Shoppe will be here 5/9/22 @11am in the Great Room. Please sign-up on the sheet outside of the HR Wellness RN's office or send an email to bburnside@gsvillage.org and include which manufacturer type you wish to receive. Consents are hanging in a folder under the sign-up sheet. Please complete the consent and scan and send to Britnee or provide the hard copy to her, and if you have insurance please make sure you include the insurance information on the form.

GS Fairview Home: 5/2/22 9:30am

The Medicine Shoppe will be here 5/2/22 @9:30am. The HR Wellness RN has consent forms available. Please complete and return it to Teresa today. If you have insurance please make sure you include the insurance information on the form.

GS Chase: 5/2/22 1:30pm


Vaccinations are also available at many local pharmacies; CVS, Walgreens, etc., by appointment. **And The Medicine Shoppe offers vaccines on most Fridays at its retail location at 1179 Vestal Ave Suite 1, Binghamton, NY 13903.** If you are interested in this option, please contact your HR Wellness RN to coordinate your visit. Once you have received your booster, please provide your HR RN Wellness Nurse (DON @ Chase) with your updated COVID vaccination ID card.

Any questions please contact the HR RN Wellness Nurse, DON at Chase, Human Resources or your Supervisor.

GSC STATISTICS

as of 4/28/2022	GSFH	GSVE	Chase
Year To Date + residents			
SNF	2	5	17
ACF	16	6	n\a
IL	0	32	n\a
Year To Date + Staff			
SNF	33	15	25
ACF	20	18	n\a
IL	n\a	8	n\a
Year To Date Deaths			
SNF	0	0	0
ACF	0	0	n\a
IL	0	0	n\a
Active Residents Cases (in-house or			
SNF	0	2	0
ACF	12	1	n\a
IL	0	0	n\a
Staff Furloughed			
SNF	6	3	1
ACF	6	3	n\a
IL	n\a	0	n\a

COMMUNITY LEVELS FOR BROOME AND CHENANGO COUNTIES


 **COVID-19 County Check**
Find community levels and prevention steps by county.

Select a Location (all fields required)

New York Broome County

[< Start Over](#)

High

 **COVID-19 County Check**
Find community levels and prevention steps by county.

Select a Location (all fields required)

New York Chenango County

[< Start Over](#)

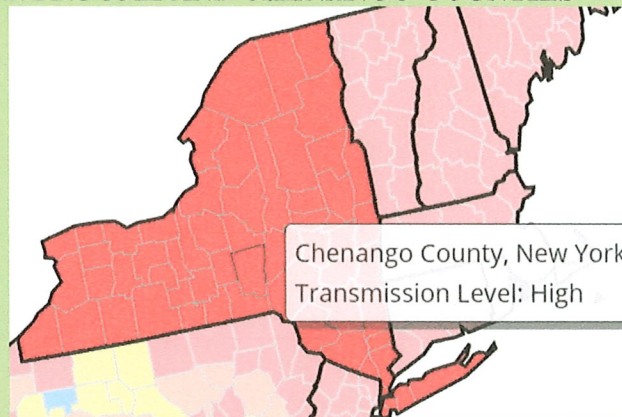
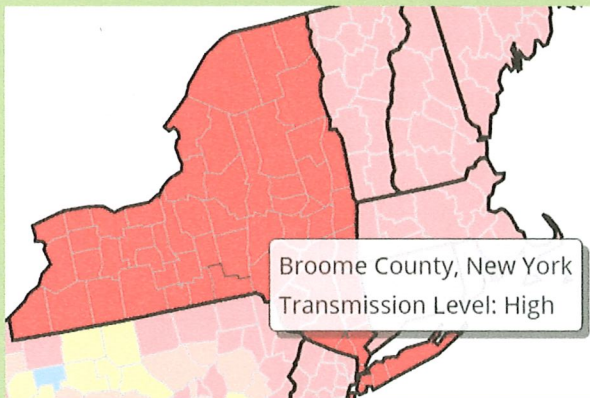
Medium

With a "high" level, the CDC recommends wearing masks in indoor public areas and on public transportation.

Masking recommendations are now based on three factors — Covid hospitalizations, hospital capacity and new Covid cases — focusing more on preventing hospitals from getting overwhelmed and less on positive tests, which spiked during the omicron wave in December and January.

Earlier this month, the Central New York region was the first in New York to have confirmed cases caused a new BA.2 omicron subvariant known as BA.2.12, state officials said at the time.

TRANSMISSION RATES FOR BROOME AND CHENANGO COUNTIES



CMS ISSUED GUIDANCE ON EMPLOYEE TESTING: STAFF NOT FULLY UP TO DATE INCLUDING UNBOOSTED STAFF SUBJECT TO ROUTINE TESTING

In general, the testing guidance replaces the term “vaccinated” with “up-to-date with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses” and deletes the term “unvaccinated.” In addition, it updates the recommendations for testing individuals within 90 days after recovering from COVID-19. “Up-to-Date” means a person has received all recommended COVID-19 vaccines, including any booster dose(s) when eligible.

As a result of this updated guidance, staff who are fully vaccinated and eligible for a booster, *but are not boosted*, must be tested routinely based on the [community transmission rates in your facility’s county](#), along with those who are not fully vaccinated and those who are unvaccinated (i.e., exempt). In most counties, this is still twice weekly. Staff who are fully vaccinated and boosted and staff who have recovered in the prior 90 days do not need to be routinely tested for COVID-19. In general, the guidance provides that “testing is not necessary for asymptomatic people who have recovered from SARS-CoV-2 infection in the prior 90 days; however, if testing is performed on these people, an antigen test instead of a nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT) is recommended. This is because some people may remain NAAT positive but not be infectious during this period.”

Table 2: Routine Testing Intervals by County COVID-19 Level of Community Transmission

Level of COVID-19 Community Transmission	Minimum Testing Frequency of Staff <i>who are not up-to-date</i>⁺
Low (blue)	Not recommended
Moderate (yellow)	Once a week*
Substantial (orange)	Twice a week*
High (red)	Twice a week*

⁺Staff *who are up-to-date* do not need to be routinely tested.

*This frequency presumes availability of Point of Care testing on-site at the nursing home or where off-site testing turnaround time is <48 hours.

Good Shepherd will be following this guidance, and will be testing employees are not up to date including those who have not received the booster with frequency based on the new guidance.

Broome County shows a **high** level of transmission, necessitating **twice a week** testing for staff not up to date with all eligible COVID vaccines.

Chenango County show a **high** level of transmission, necessitating **twice a week** testing for staff not up to date with all eligible COVID vaccines.

NYS Mask Mandate

The Governor has lifted the mask mandate for businesses, but noted Counties, Cities and businesses can choose to continue to require masks. The mask requirement remains in effect for the following:

- State regulated Health Care Settings
- State regulated Adult Care Facilities and Nursing Homes
- Correctional Facilities
- Schools and Child Care Centers
- Homeless Shelters
- Domestic Violence Shelters
- Buses and bus stations, trains and train stations, subways and subway stations, and planes and airports

Given the Broome County statistics reported above, we are still concerned that the Community Transmission Level is at **High**, and given our vulnerable population, we will continue to require masks for both staff and residents in Independent Living at both GSFH and GSVE when in public areas other than when seated for drinks or a meal. We will re-evaluate this policy on a regular basis.

Patti Mackey
GSC COO

Dave Fawns
GSC VP of HR