



January 6, 2021

To All Staff:

Status Update

Each week we will provide you with updated information on COVID-testing at all of our campuses.

| Testing Tracker: Summary of Employees & Residents Diagnostic Testing | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Employees | To date (since pandemic start) | | | | New Suspected Cases | | | |
| | Employees tested | Tests Pending | Employees Positive | Employees Negative | Employees tested | Tests Pending | Employees Positive | Employees Negative |
| Chase | 17 | 0 | 2 | 15 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| GSFH | 23 | 0 | 4 | 18 and 1 inconclusive | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| GSVE | 21 | 0 | 3 | 18 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Residents | To date (since pandemic start) | | | | New Suspected Cases | | | |
| Residents tested | Tests Pending | Residents Positive | Residents Negative | Residents tested | Tests Pending | Residents Positive | Residents Negative | |
| Chase | 17 | 0 | 2 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GSFH | 77 | 0 | 9 | 68 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| GSVE | 38 | 0 | 1 | 37 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 |

Tested as of 12/29/20 12/30/20-1/5/21
Please note some testing was purely precautionary as the individual was asymptomatic. Ex: fall led to ER visit and tested.

Please note the chart above is for testing conducted for cause only. At this time, it does not include the mass staff weekly testing discussed below, resident exposure testing, or staff testing done as part of any pre-op procedures.

NYS DOH Mandatory Testing for all Staff: Results of week of 12/30/2020-1/5/2021:

Mass Testing

| Mass Employee Testing | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|-----------------|----------|-------------------------------|
| | Tested | Positive | Negative | Inconclusive or Indeterminate |
| GSFH | 167 | 1 and 2 repeats | 164 | 0 |
| GSVE | 149 | 1 and 3 repeats | 145 | 0 |
| Chase | 77 | 8 | 64 | 5 |

Staff Testing 12/30/20-1/6/21

In the last round of staff testing, we had the following positive results:

GSFH:

1/2/20

- One of our staff members who works at Good Shepherd Fairview Home in Binghamton in the Therapy department *tested positive for COVID-19*. There are no staff members or residents who were considered to be close contacts to the positive staff member due to PPE in use during contact. The staff member has mild symptoms and will self-isolate for 14 days.

1/4/21

- One of our staff members who works at Good Shepherd Fairview Home in Binghamton has *tested positive for COVID-19*. The employee works in our clinical department in the Skilled Nursing facility. This employee has mild symptoms and will self-isolate for 14 days. No residents or staff were considered close contacts with the positive staff member.

Chase

12/30/20

- Two of our Nursing employees tested positive. The staff members are symptomatic, and will self-isolate. No other staff or residents are considered close contacts due to the PPE staff are wearing while in the facility.

12/31/20

- A member of the Nursing department tested positive. This staff member had been experiencing mild symptoms, but is now asymptomatic. The employee will self-isolate. No other staff or residents are considered close contacts due to the PPE staff are wearing while in the facility.
- Two of our employees tested positive for COVID-19. One is in a management role, and the other is in Nursing. Both are symptomatic. No other staff or residents are considered close contacts due to the PPE staff are wearing while in the facility.

1/1/21

- Two more employees tested positive. One is in Nursing, and is being contacted. The other is in the Therapy department, who reports being asymptomatic. No other staff or residents are considered close contacts due to the PPE staff are wearing while in the facility.

1/3/21

- One of our employees in the Nursing department tested positive for COVID-19. Contact tracing has been completed. No other staff or residents are considered close contacts due to the PPE staff are wearing while in the facility.

GSVE:

1/1/21

- One employee in the Environmental Services department was tested for cause and tested positive for COVID-19. The staff is symptomatic and will self-isolate for 14 days. No staff members or residents were in close contact.
- One employee in the Maintenance department tested positive in our mass testing. They are asymptomatic and will self-isolate for 14 days.

Resident Testing 12/30/20-01/6/21: Please note the narrative below includes ***all positive test results***, including results of required resident mass testing. Therefore it may not correspond with the table above, which represents only those tested for cause.

GSFH:

1/2/21

- A resident on the Rehab unit tested positive *for COVID-19*. There are no staff members or residents who were considered to be close contacts to the positive resident due to PPE in use during contact. The resident is symptomatic and will be on isolation for 14 days.
- Sadly, one of our residents who had previously tested positive for COVID-19 passed away. Our thoughts are with their families and loved ones.

Chase:

12/30/20

- Nine more of our residents tested positive for COVID-19. No staff or other residents are considered to be a close contact of any of these residents due to the personal protective equipment that is required to be worn in resident care areas at all times.
- One of our residents who had previously tested positive for COVID-19 passed away. Our thoughts are with their families and loved ones.

12/31/20

- Six more of our residents tested positive for COVID-19. No staff or other residents are considered to be a close contact of any of these residents due to the personal protective equipment that is required to be worn in resident care areas at all times.

1/1/21

- One of our residents who had previously tested positive for COVID-19 passed away. Our thoughts are with their families and loved ones.

1/2/21

- One of our residents who had previously tested positive for COVID-19 passed away. Our thoughts are with their families and loved ones.

1/3/21

- One of our residents who had previously tested positive for COVID-19 passed away. Our thoughts are with their families and loved ones.

1/4/21

- One of our residents who had previously tested positive for COVID-19 passed away. Our thoughts are with their families and loved ones.

GSVE: No new resident positive results.

NYS DOH Mandatory Testing for all Staff (Reminder)

Per the DOH guidelines for mandatory testing, the week runs from **Wednesday-Tuesday**. We are now in the week of December 23-29. A new week will start on December 30, which will run to December 30- January 5. When scheduling or planning your appointment to be tested, please keep the week dates in mind in order to be in compliance with the Executive Order. The Executive Order was extending through January 1, 2021. We will keep you posted on any updates.

The testing times for each campus will be as follows next week will vary significantly due to the holiday:

| <u>GSFH</u> | | <u>GSVE</u> | | <u>Chase</u> | |
|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|--------------|---------------|
| Tuesday | 2-4pm | Monday | 2-4pm | Monday | 5-8am & 1-4pm |
| Wednesday | 7-9am | Tuesday | 2-4pm | Tuesday | 5-8am & 1-4pm |
| Thursday | 2-4pm | Wednesday | 2-4pm | Wednesday | 5-8am & 1-4pm |

If you miss the weekly test, you cannot work and will not receive any pay, including benefit time, until you are tested. This includes using benefit time that was pre-approved for any time you are non-compliant prior to being tested. Please

understand we are taking this strong stance not to be punitive but because NYS DOH will be monitoring our compliance with the weekly testing requirements, and any non-compliance among our employees can result in the facility itself being penalized. We have eliminated the earlier requirement that we receive a negative test result prior to return in recognition that testing results are now taking an extended time. **Please help us meet this NYS DOH requirement by planning ahead and taking responsibility to be in compliance even if you are scheduled to be out for some portion of the testing week.** Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

NYS Quarantine Travel Restrictions

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced new guidelines allowing out-of-state travelers to New York to "test out" of the mandatory 14-day quarantine. Travelers from states (Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Connecticut) that are contiguous with New York will continue to be exempt from the travel advisory. Essential workers will continue to be exempt as well. The new protocol is effective Wednesday, November 4.

Per NYS, if you travel to a prohibited area, you are required to self-quarantine. You must obtain a COVID PCR test within 24 hours of your return to NYS. Once negative results are received you may report to work but are required to self-quarantine when not at work. On day 4 you must obtain a second COVID test and receive negative results before exiting quarantine outside of work. GSC has determined the period while you await your results is not eligible to quarantine pay and you may not use benefit time. If you do decide to travel to a restricted zone, you should carefully consider the availability of testing upon your return, and the average length of time people are waiting for their results - 5+ days unless you have access to the rapid response testing which is not widely available.

In addition, if you do become ill, NYS COVID pay is not available per NYS guidelines because you have traveled to a high risk area as defined by NYS.

We are highly recommending for the health and welfare of our residents and staff members that you adhere to the travel restrictions. We understand this may mean canceling vacations or missing important life events, and know how difficult these decisions can be. We all have a responsibility to our fellow New Yorkers, our co-workers, and our residents, to do our part to avoid the spread of COVID-19.

For people outside the nursing home guidelines the following applies:

New guidelines allowing out-of-state travelers to New York to "test out" of the mandatory 14-day quarantine. Travelers from states that are contiguous with New York will continue to be exempt from the travel advisory; however, covered travelers must continue to fill out the [Traveler Health Form](#).

For any traveler to New York State from out of state, exempting the contiguous states, the new guidelines for travelers to test-out of the mandatory 14-day quarantine are below:

For travelers who were in another state for more than 24 hours:

- Travelers must obtain a test within three days of departure from that state.
- The traveler must, upon arrival in New York, quarantine for three days.
- On day 4 of their quarantine, the traveler must obtain seek another COVID test. If both tests come back negative, the traveler may exit quarantine early upon receipt of the second negative diagnostic test.

For travelers who were in another state for less than 24 hours:

- The traveler does not need a test prior to their departure from the other state, and does not need to quarantine upon arrival in New York State.
- However, the traveler must fill out the traveler information form upon entry into New York State, and take a COVID diagnostic test 4 days after their arrival in New York.

Local health departments will validate tests, if necessary, and if a test comes back positive, will issue isolation orders and initiate contact tracing. The local health department must make contact with the state the traveler came from, to ensure contact tracing proceeds there as well. All travelers must continue to fill out the traveler information form upon arrival into New York State to contribute to New York State's robust contact tracing program.

Vaccination

- SNF

- At this point, all three of our campuses have had their first vaccine clinic for all SNF residents, and the second is planned at each at a three week interval since the initial vaccine. At the second clinic, residents who were not included in the first clinic will receive their first shot, and a third clinic is planned for their second dose.
- **ACF:**
 - This program for ACF residents is set to launch next week. Per a recent DOH notice: “Adult care facilities hold a critical role on the long term care continuum. As such, adult care facility staff and residents will be eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccination through a CDC-contracted pharmacy partner beginning January 11, 2021. Adult care facilities are matched to a pharmacy partner who will outreach the adult care facility to schedule in-house vaccine clinics. Pharmacists will be onsite to administer the vaccine and monitor post-vaccination. The logistics will be discussed between the pharmacy and facility to ensure appropriate social distancing and other practices are preserved.”
 - GSVE ALR clinic dates: 1/14, 2/4, 2/25
 - GSFH ALR Clinic Dates: 1/13, 2/3, 2/24
- **Independent Living residents are not considered eligible at this time.** This is not a GSC decision. NYS is establishing a prioritization list which all our facilities must follow.
- **Staff**
 - ALL staff regardless of department are eligible for the program, with prioritization based on risk. These clinics have begun at all the Campuses
- There will be no cost to the resident or families for this vaccination.
- While this is not mandatory for our residents or staff, **we are hoping all of our eligible residents and staff will elect to be vaccinated unless there are contraindications.**

Furloughed Staff

While we our facilities continue to provide quality care to all of our residents, we want to be completely transparent about some of the challenges we are facing. Each campus has had and continues to have employees who have either tested positive for COVID-19 or have had close contacts, and are therefore furloughed for a minimum of 14 days. This will obviously create staffing challenges. The following summarizes the currently furloughed staff members at each facility:

| | Nursing | Env Service | Dietary | ACF | Other |
|-------|---------|-------------|---------|-----|-------|
| GSFH | 9 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| GSVE | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Chase | 12 | 1 | 0 | n/a | 5 |

Positivity Rates and COVID Zones

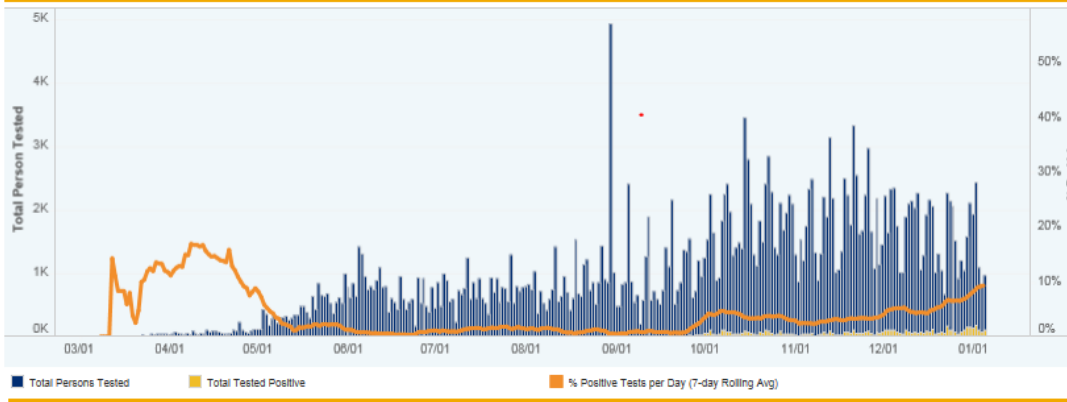
NYS reports on COVID Positivity Rates by County and also on COVID Cluster Spots. Each week, we will include the most recent info. Increasing positivity can impact all businesses, and for nursing homes can mean increased requirements for employee testing. Per CMS guidelines:

Table 2: Routine Testing Intervals Vary by Community COVID-19 Activity Level

| Community COVID-19 Activity | County Positivity Rate in the past week | Minimum Testing Frequency |
|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Low | <5% | Once a month |
| Medium | 5% - 10% | Once a week* |
| High | >10% | Twice a week* |

*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.

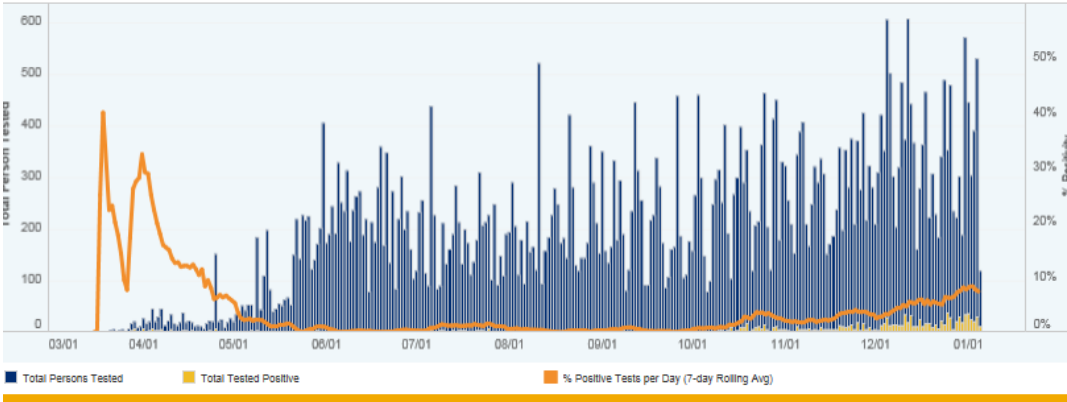
% Positive Results Over Time - Broome



Test Results - Yesterday

| | | Total Persons Tested | Total Tested Positive | % Positive, Yesterday | % Positive, 7-day Avg |
|---------------|--------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Southern Tier | Broome | 848 | 116 | 13.7% | 9.3% |

% Positive Results Over Time - Chenango



Test Results - Yesterday

| | | Total Persons Tested | Total Tested Positive | % Positive, Yesterday | % Positive, 7-day Avg |
|---------------|----------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Southern Tier | Chenango | 109 | 11 | 10.1% | 7.5% |

Testing is also required to increase per NYS if a facility is located within a COVID cluster hot spot. Currently, none of our facilities are in a COVID cluster hot spot.

Screening Question Reminder.....

COVID-19 is a respiratory virus that presents with a wide range of symptoms. Fever is common, but not always present when an individual is infected with COVID-19. Diarrhea can also be a symptom which many people might not associate with COVID. GSC has implemented a symptom screening process to help identify any staff that should remain out of work. Please, be mindful of the symptoms we screen for when reporting to work. If you have developed symptoms, which are NEW and/or UNUSUAL for you, WITH or WITHOUT a fever, please notify your supervisor before reporting to work.

In addition, it is very important that you are truthful when answering the screening questions. Failure to answer them truthfully could cause a co-worker, or resident to become ill with COVID, and if the misrepresentation is confirmed, will result in termination.



We really appreciate your on-going commitment to Good Shepherd-thanks for all you do!

Sincerely,

Linda Parke
Director of Human Resources