



August 13, 2020

To All Staff:

This is week nineteen of our employee COVID-19 update.

**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	11	0	0	11	0	0	0	0
GSFH	6	0	1	5	0	0	0	0
GSVE	11	0	1*	10	0	0	0	0
			* last worked 3/29					
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	10	0	0	10	0	0	0	
GSFH	21	0	0	21	0	0	0	
GSVE	21	0	0	21	1	0	0	
Tested as of 8/5/20				8/6/20-8/12/20				
Please note some testing was purely precautionary as the individual was asymptomatic. Ex: fall led to ER visit and tested.								

**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 August 12-18; a new week will start on August 19, which will run to August 19-25. 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. This Executive Order was extended through September 4, 2020. We will keep you posted on any updates.

The testing times for each campus will be as follows:

<u>GSFH</u>		<u>GSVE</u>		<u>Chase</u>	
Tuesday	2-4pm	Monday	2-4pm	Monday	5am-5pm
Wednesday	7-9am	Tuesday	2-4pm	Tuesday	5am-5pm
Thursday	2-4pm	Wednesday	2-4pm	Wednesday	5am-5pm
Friday	7-9am	Friday	2-4pm		

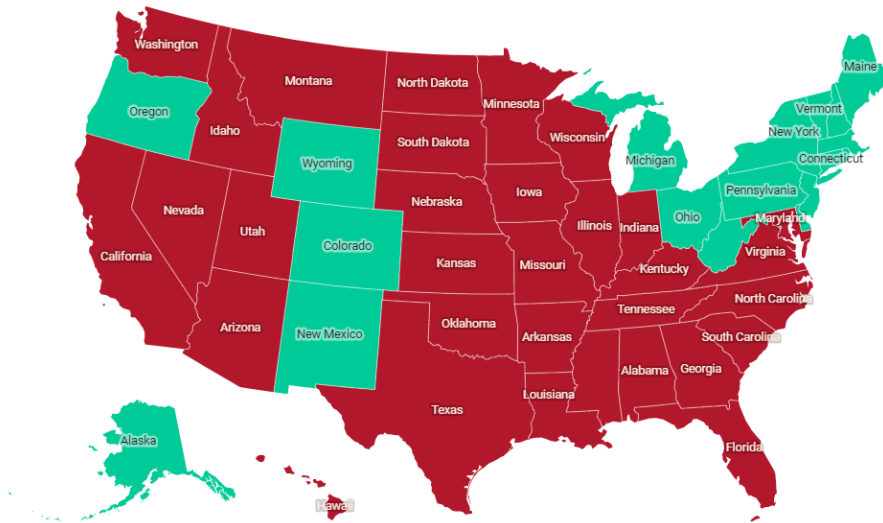
**If you miss the weekly test, you cannot work and will not receive any pay, including benefit time, until you are tested. This includes using benefit time that was pre-approved for any time you are non-compliant prior to being tested.** Please understand we are taking this strong stance not to be punitive 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 (update)

The list has been expanded again (newly added states in italics), the advisory applies to anyone traveling from Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, *Hawaii*, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, *South Dakota*, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and two territory - Puerto Rico, and *Virgin Islands*. Alaska, New Mexico, Ohio, and Rhode Island have been dropped from list, since their coronavirus indicators have improved.

### State Quarantine List

As of August 11, travelers to NJ/NY/CT from the red states (plus Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands) must self-quarantine for 14 days. Travelers from the green states can come and go.



**Per NYS, if you travel to a prohibited area, you cannot return without providing the results of a negative test conducted within 24 hours of your return to NYS.** 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. But 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.

### **Results of Mass Testing (for employees who passed the screening process)**

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

	Tested	Positive	Negative	Inconclusive or Indeterminate
GSFH	187	1	186	0
GSVE	155	0	155	0
Chase	140	1	134	5

#### *GSFH*

- Dietary Employee: Asymptomatic, and will Self-isolate for 14 days. One staff member was in close contact, and will follow all department of health instructions. No residents were in close contact.

#### *GSVE*

- No new positive test results.

#### *Chase*

- Nursing employee: Asymptomatic, and will Self-isolate for 14 days. No residents were in close contact with this staff member. Three staff members were in close contact and will self-quarantine for 14 days.

Our staff at all of our campuses are monitoring these situations in collaboration with both the NYS DOH and local department of health and will follow all recommendations.

### **CMS\NYS Required Notifications When Staff or Resident Tests Positive to COVID**

As we reviewed last week, we are required to notify all residents, families and staff of a facility whenever we have a positive COVID test result for any staff member or resident. While CMS requires this notice be made by 5 pm of the next day, NYS is more stringent, requiring notice within 24 hours.

To help us meet these requirements, we utilize a broadcast tool (School Messenger) to send emails and automated phone calls to up to two email addresses and two phone numbers per resident or resident contact, which is usually the first Health Care Proxy. Up to now, Patti Mackey has issued all these broadcasts. Beginning next week, we will be establishing a facility specific rotation for who will be responsible for the broadcast. For GSFH, broadcasts will be made by Kathy Swezey, GSFH Executive Director, or Linda Parke, GSC HR Director. For GSVE, broadcasts will be made by MaryKay McKinney, GSVE IL Director, or Jennifer Davidson, GSVE HC Administrator. Chase broadcasts will be made by Patti Mackey, GSC COO, or Gabby Skillen, Chase Executive Director.



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

Sincerely,

Linda Parke,  
Director of Human Resources