



August 6, 2020

To All Staff:

This is week eighteen 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	0
GSFH	20	0	0	20	1	0	0	1
GSVE	20	0	0	20	1	0	0	1
Tested as of 7/29/20					7/30/20-8/5/20			
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 – (Results)

We continue to do the testing of our staffs as required by NYS Executive Order. Per Executive Order, each employee is tested *once per week*. The test is a simple nasal swab, and results usually arrive within 48 hours.

Please note testing is different than screening. Screening staff involves staff answering a series of questions about travel, work and symptoms, and having their temperature taken at the start of their shifts and every 12 hours thereafter. Testing is a laboratory test to find out if a person has coronavirus (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:

Mass Employee Testing				
	Tested	Positive	Negative	Inconclusive or Indeterminate
GSFH	184	1	183	0
GSVE	196	1	195	0
Chase	103	0	101	2

GSFH

- SNF Employee: Asymptomatic. Self-isolation for 14 days. Two staff members were in close contact, and will self-quarantine. One resident was in close contact and has been placed on droplet precautions.

GSVE

- Independent Living employee: Minor symptoms as this time. Self-isolation for 14 days. No residents or other staff members were in close contact with this staff member.
- UPDATE ON REPORT FROM LAST WEEK: The Assisted Living Residence employee has returned to work post self-isolation. No other staff members were in close contact with this staff member. The four residents who were in close contact were tested and are all negative. The unit will be off quarantine as of tomorrow.

Chase

- No new positive results

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.

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 5-11, a new week will start on August 12, which will run to August 12-18. 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 August 8, 2020. We will keep you posted on any updates.

The testing times for each campus will be as follows:

GSFH

Tuesday 2-4pm
 Wednesday 7-9am
 Thursday 2-4pm
 Friday 7-9am

GSVE

Monday 2-4pm
 Tuesday 2-4pm
 Wednesday 2-4pm
 Friday 2-4pm

Chase

Monday 5am-5pm
 Tuesday 5am-5pm
 Wednesday 5am-5pm

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, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, *Rhode Island*, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and one territory - Puerto Rico. Delaware and Washington D.C. have been dropped from list, since their coronavirus indicators have improved.

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. GS 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 we 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.

UnitedHealthcare Correction

Please note that non-COVID related telehealth is only covered without any cost share through September 30, not October 22. This is a clarification we received from UHC which changes the information we provided previously.

Federally Mandated COVID-Related Insurance Waivers

Federally mandated temporary coverage changes that apply to all group medical plans through Oct. 22 include:

COVID-19 Testing: Cost-share waivers for COVID-19 diagnostic testing (virus and antigen) and antibody testing when medically necessary ordered by a physician or licensed health care professional and provided at approved locations.

COVID-19 Treatment: Cost-share waivers for applicable treatment given under an appropriate COVID-19 admission or diagnosis code. This includes office visits, telehealth, inpatient hospital, acute rehabilitation, long-term acute care, skilled-nursing facilities, urgent care, and emergency department visits and observation stays.

COVID-19 Test-related visit/services: Cost-share waivers for COVID-19 testing-related visit and applicable services at health care provider's office, urgent care center, emergency department, or through telehealth.

COVID-19 Telehealth: Cost-share waiver for in-network and out-of-network telehealth coverage for COVID-19-related services.



Please note, the following services will not be extended:

Non-COVID in-network telehealth services: For individual and fully insured group market health plans, and for self-funded employers that opted in, cost-share waivers for in-network non-COVID-19 related telehealth services and expanded services with network providers are in effect through Sept. 30, 2020.

Non-COVID out-of-network telehealth services: These services do not include the cost-share waiver and will be processed in accordance with the group's health benefits plan, if the service is eligible. Expanded telehealth non-COVID-19 services ended July 24, 2020.

Virtual Visits: Eligible individual and group market health plan members can access their Virtual Visits benefits through our preferred partners —with no cost-share through Sept. 30, 2020.

Be safe and enjoy August!

Sincerely,

Linda Parke
Director of Human Resources