February 17, 2021

To All Staff:

TESTING

Each week we will provide you with updated information on COVID-19 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	20	0	4	16	0	0	0	0
GSFH	29	0	8	20 and 1 inconclusive	1	0	0	1
GSVE	25	0	5	20	0	0	0	0

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	20	0	2	18	0	0	0	0
GSFH	96	0	11	85	7	0	1	6
GSVE	48	0	2	48	2	0	0	2
Tested as of 2/9/20				2/10/21-2/16/21				

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 <u>for cause only</u>. At this time, it does not include the mass staff weekly testing discussed below, resident exposure testing, resident mass testing or staff testing done as part of any pre-op procedures.

Mass Testing

Mass Employee Testing

	Tested	Positive	Negative	Pending, Inconclusive or Indeterminate
GSFH	332	1	331	0
GSVE	236	2 and 2 repeat	232	0
Chase	125	2 repeat	122	2

Mass Resident Testing

	Tested	Positive	Negative	Pending, Inconclusive or Indeterminate
GSFH	18	2	15	1
GSVE	22	0	22	0
Chase	4	0	4	0

NYS DOH Mandatory Testing for all Staff: Results of week of 2/10/21-2/16/21:

Staff Testing 2/10/21-2/16/21

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

GSFH

2/9/21 (not reported last week)

- An employee who works in our Dietary department in the Skilled Nursing Facility Tested positive for COVID-19. This employee is asymptomatic and will self-isolate for 14 days. The employee had not worked during their infectious phase, so no contact tracing was required.

2/11/21

- One of our staff members who works in the Nursing department in the Skilled Nursing Facility tested positive for COVID-19. This employee has mild symptoms and will self-isolate for 14 days. There were no residents or staff identified as close contacts.

Chase: No new positive tests

GSVE

2/10/21

- An employee who works in the Human Resources department tested positive for COVID-19. The staff member is asymptomatic and will self-isolate for 14 days. No close contacts were identified.

- An employee that works in Assisted Living and Independent Living tested positive for COVID-19. The staff member is asymptomatic and will self-isolate for 14 days. No staff were identified as close contacts. One Assisted Living resident and two Independent Living residents were identified as close contacts, they are quarantining according to the CDC recommendations.

Resident Testing 2/10/21-2/16/21: 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:

2/14/21

- Two of our residents on our Rehab unit tested positive for COVID-19.

Chase: No new positive tests.

GSVE: No new positive tests.

Resident COVID-19 related deaths 2/10/21-2/16/21:

GSFH: We are happy to report there were no COVID-19 related resident deaths at GSFH.

Chase: We are happy to report there were no COVID-19 related resident deaths at Chase.

GSVE: One of our IL residents who had a COVID-19 diagnosis passed away on 2/15/21 in the hospital. Our thoughts are with their family and friends.

NYS DOH Mandatory Testing for all Staff (Reminder)

Per the DOH guidelines for mandatory twice per week testing, the week runs from **Wednesday-Tuesday**. The new week starts today, Wednesday, February 17, which will run February 17-23. When scheduling or planning your appointments to

be tested, **please keep the week dates in mind in order to be in compliance with the Executive Order of twice per week testing.**

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

GSFH		GSVE		Chase
Tuesday	2-4pm	Monday	2-4pm	Monday 6-8am & 1-4pm
Wednesday	7-9am & 2-4pm	Tuesday	2-4pm	Thursday 6-8am & 1-4pm
Thursday	2-4pm	Wednesday	2-4pm	
Friday	7-9am	Friday	2-4pm	

If you miss the twice per week testing, 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 twice per week 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, 2020.

Per NYS, if you travel to a prohibited area, you are required to self-quarantine. You must obtain a COVID test within 24 hours of your return to NYS. 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 me. 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-19 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.
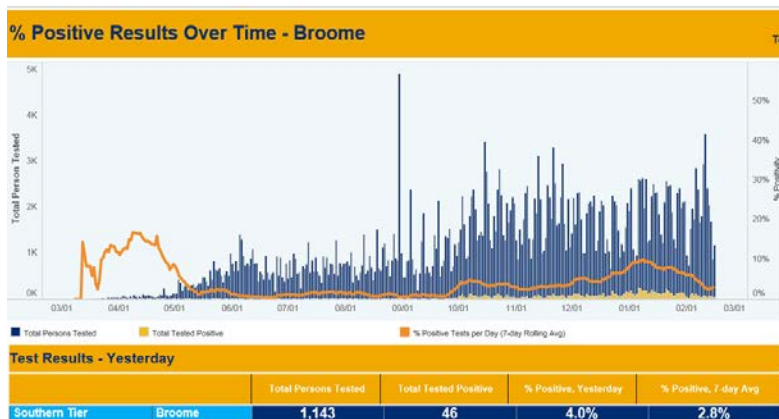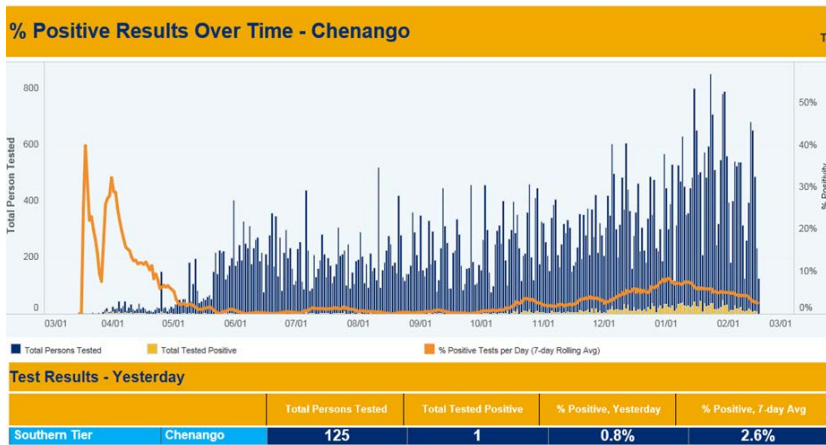
Furloughed Staff

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:

Furloughed Staff					
	Nursing	Env Servic	Dietary	ACF	Other
GSFH	2	0	3	0	1
GSVE	0	0	1	0	3
Chase	0	0	0	0	0

Positivity Rates and COVID Zones

NYS reports on COVID-19 Positivity Rates by County and also on COVID-19 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:

% Positive Results Over Time - Chenango

		Total Persons Tested	Total Tested Positive	% Positive, Yesterday	% Positive, 7-day Avg
Southern Tier	Chenango	125	1	0.8%	2.6%

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