



January 13, 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	18	0	2	16	1	0	1	0
GSFH	25	0	5	19 and 1 inconclusive	1	0	1	0
GSVE	23	0	4	19	1	0	1	0
1/13/21 note the 3 'employees for cause' are actually one person who travels b/w campuses								
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	1	1	0	0
GSFH	80	0	9	71	1	0	0	1
GSVE	42	0	1	41	1	0	0	1
Tested as of 12/29/20					1/6/21-1/12/21			
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 1/6/2021-1/12/2021:

Mass Testing

Mass Resident Testing				
	Tested	Positive	Negative	Inconclusive or Indeterminate
GSFH	33	8 repeat positives and 0 new cases	24	1
GSVE	17	0	17	0
Chase	56	16 positive and 3 repeats	8	29 rejected (incorrect tubes used)

Staff Testing 1/6/21-1/12/2021

Mass Staff Testing

Mass Employee Testing				
	Tested	Positive	Negative	Inconclusive or Indeterminate
GSFH	215	2 and 17 repeat positives	196	0
GSVE	184	2 and 3 repeat positives	179	0
Chase	84	8 positive and 6 repeat positive	67	3

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

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

GSFH:

1/6/21

- An employee who travels to all of our campuses tested positive for COVID. The staff member is symptomatic and will self-isolate. The staff member had visited all three of our campuses during the infectious period, so we are reporting this as a positive result at all three campuses.

1/8/21

- An employee in our clinical department in the Skilled Nursing Facility tested positive. This employee will self-isolate for 14 days. This employee had only low level exposure to other staff due to use of all appropriate PPE and no resident contact.
- An employee who works in our Dietary department in the Skilled Nursing facility also tested positive. This employee will self-isolate for 14 days. This employee had no residents or staff that were considered close contact and used all appropriate PPE.

Chase

1/6/21

- An employee who travels to all of our campuses tested positive for COVID-19. The staff member is symptomatic and will self-isolate. The staff member had visited all three of our campuses during the infectious period, so we are reporting this as a positive result at all three campuses. No close contacts identified. No close contacts identified.

1/7/21

- Two of our employees in the Nursing department and one employee in Environmental Services tested positive for COVID-19. No other staff or residents are considered close contacts due to the PPE staff are wearing while in the facility.

1/8/21

- A member of our Nursing department tested positive. No other staff or residents are considered close contacts due to the PPE staff are wearing while in the facility. The individual will self-isolate for the required period.

1/9/21

- A contracted agency person working in the Nursing department tested positive for COVID-19. No other staff or residents are considered close contacts due to the PPE staff are wearing while in the facility. The individual will self-isolate for the required period.

1/12/21

- A member of the Nursing department notified us she had received a positive test from an outside provider. The staff member is symptomatic, and will self-isolate for the required period. No other staff or residents are considered close contacts due to the PPE staff are wearing while in the facility.

GSVE:

1/6/21

- An employee who travels to all of our campuses tested positive for COVID. The staff member is symptomatic and will self-isolate. The staff member had visited all three of our campuses during the infectious period, so we are reporting this as a positive result at all three campuses. No close contacts identified.

1/7/21

- An employee working in Dining services in the Village Center tested positive for COVID-19. The employee is asymptomatic, and will self-Isolate for 14 days. No staff or residents were in close contact.

1/8/21

- An employee in administration tested positive for COVID-19. The staff member is asymptomatic and will self-isolate for the required number of days. One staff member was in close contact and will self-isolate for the required number of days.

Resident Testing 1/6/21-1/12/21: 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: 33 mass tests performed with no new positive resident results and 1 for cause performed and negative.

Chase:

1/7/21

- 6 new residents tested positive

1/9/21

- 8 new residents tested positive

1/10/21

- 2 new residents tested positive

Resident mass testing at Chase: 24 tested, 16 new positives (detailed above) and 8 negatives.

GSVE: 17 mass tests performed with no new positive resident results and 1 for cause performed and negative.

Resident Deaths 1/6/21-1/12/21

GSFH

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

Chase

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

GSVE: No resident deaths related to

COVID-19. Vaccination

- **SNF**
 - At this point, all three of our campuses have had their first vaccine clinic for all SNF residents, and the second was Monday at GSFH, today at Chase, and next Wednesday at GSVE.
- **ACF:**
 - This program for ACF residents started this week at GSFH and GSVE.
 - GSVE ALR clinic dates: 1/14, 2/4, 2/25
 - GSFH ALR Clinic Dates: 1/13, 2/3, 2/24
- **Independent Living**
 - IL residents are NOT considered eligible at this time to be vaccinated at our facilities as part of SNF and ACF vaccinations programs.
 - But NYS residents over 65 are now eligible to be vaccinated at other sites. To explore eligibility, available sites and learn how to schedule an appointment, access this link: <https://am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>
 - **We are working with LeadingAgeNY and the Governor's office to review the possibility of on-site clinics through NYS. We hope to have more info on this soon.**
- **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.**

NYS DOH Mandatory Testing for all Staff (Reminder)

Per the DOH guidelines for mandatory twice per week testing, the week runs from **Wednesday-Tuesday**. We are now in the week of 1/6/2021-1/12/2021. A new week will start on Wednesday, January 13, which will run to January 13-19. 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:

<u>GSFH</u>		<u>GSVE</u>		<u>Chase</u>
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 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 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 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 was Monday at GSFH, today at Chase, and next Wednesday at GSVE.
- **ACF:**
 - This program for ACF residents started this week at GSFH and GSVE.
 - 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 to be vaccinated AT OUR FACILITIES.** This is not a GSC decision. NYS is establishing a prioritization list which all our facilities must follow.
 - But NYS residents over 65 are now eligible to be vaccinated at other sites. To explore eligibility, available sites and learn how to schedule an appointment, access this link: <https://am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>

- **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. Please help us protect our residents, your coworkers and families by signing up for the vaccine. It is safe and effective.**

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 Service	Dietary	ACF	Other
GSFH	6	1	1	0	3
GSVE	0	2	7	1	2
Chase	15	2	0	0	1

Positivity Rates and COVID Zones

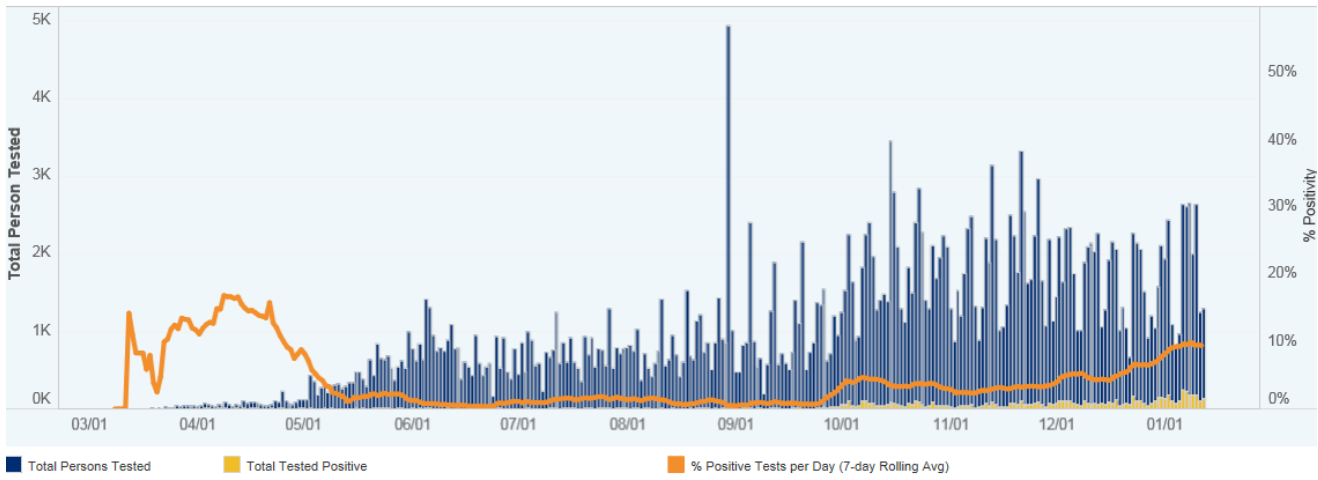
NYS reports on COVID Positivity Rates by County and also on COVID Cluster Spots. Each week, we will include the most recent info. Increasing positivity can impact all businesses, and for nursing homes can mean increased requirements for employee testing. Per CMS guidelines:

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.

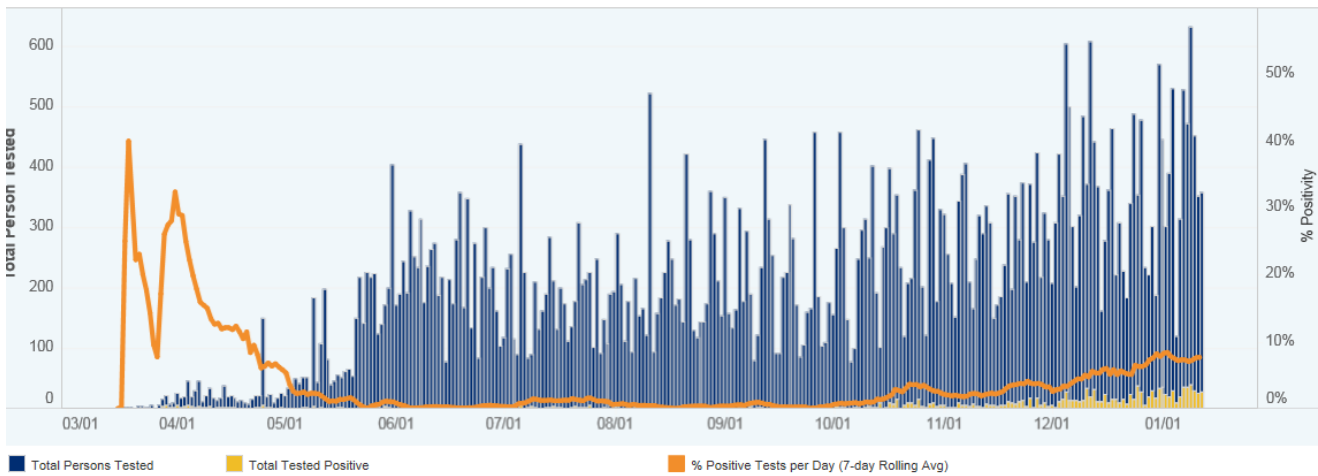
% Positive Results Over Time - Broome



Test Results - Yesterday

		Total Persons Tested	Total Tested Positive	% Positive, Yesterday	% Positive, 7-day Avg
Southern Tier	Broome	1,157	136	11.8%	9.5%

% Positive Results Over Time - Chenango



Test Results - Yesterday

		Total Persons Tested	Total Tested Positive	% Positive, Yesterday	% Positive, 7-day Avg
Southern Tier	Chenango	329	29	8.8%	7.6%

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