



July 23, 2020

To All Staff:

This is week sixteen 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.

Employees	Employees tested	Tests Pending	To date (since pandemic start) Employees Positive	Employees Negative	New Suspected Cases			
					Employees tested	Tests Pending	Employees Positive	Employees Negative
Chase	9	0	0	9	2	0	0	2
GSFH	6	0	1	5	0	0	0	0
GSVE	11	0	1*	10	0	0	0	0

* last worked 3/29

Residents	Residents tested	Tests Pending	To date (since pandemic start) Residents Positive	Residents Negative	New Suspected Cases			
					Residents tested	Tests Pending	Residents Positive	Residents Negative
Chase	8	0	0	8	1	0	0	1
GSFH	20	0	0	20	0	0	0	0
GSVE	15	0	0	15	1	0	0	1

Tested as of 7/15/20

7/16/20-7/22/20

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 July 22 -28, a new week will start on July 29, which will run to July 29-Aug 4. 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 and have received a negative test result.

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, *Delaware*, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, *Indiana*, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, *Maryland*, Mississippi, *Missouri*, *Montana*, *Nebraska*, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, *North Dakota*, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, *Virginia*, *Washington*, and Wisconsin. *Minnesota was removed from the list.*

If you travel to a prohibited area, you cannot return without a negative test, and the waiting period is not subject to quarantine pay and you may not use benefit time. In addition, if you do become ill, NYS COVID pay is not available. **We are highly recommending for the health and welfare of our residents and staff members that you adhere to the travel restrictions.**

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

	Tested	Positive	Negative	Inconclusive or Indeterminate
GSFH	180	2	178	0
GSVE	157	0	157	0
Chase	108	3	104	1

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

GSFH

- Therapist: Asymptomatic. Self-isolation for 14 days. The staff member had close contact with the following:
 - 8 residents on the Rehab Unit
 - 3 residents on Cameo Court
 - 7 residents on ALR
 - 2 discharged residents

All the units are now quarantined, and exposed residents have been placed on droplet precautions. We realize this is a much higher exposure rate than any of our previous cases, but it is the nature of a therapist's job to be in close proximity for an often prolonged duration with the majority of their caseload. Both the therapist and the residents all wore masks during their treatments.

The staff member also had close contact with three other staff members in the Therapy department, who have received instructions on the pertinent restrictions

- Dietary Employee: Asymptomatic. Self-isolation for 14 days. No close contact with any residents or other staff.

GSVE

- No new positive results

Chase

- Nursing Employee 1: Asymptomatic. Self-isolation for 14 days. The nursing employee did have contact with five other staff members, who will self-quarantine. They also had contact with 25 residents who have

been placed on droplet precautions. No residents are showing any COVID symptoms, but we will conduct COVID testing for all the residents on the unit and repeat this after seven days as a further precaution.

Again, we realize this is a much higher exposure rate than any of our previous cases, but it is the nature of this individual's job to be in close proximity for an often prolonged duration while providing care.

- Dietary Employee: Asymptomatic. Self-isolation for 14 days. Had not worked recently, so there was no contact with residents or other staff.
- Nursing Employee 2: Asymptomatic. Self-Isolation for 14 days. However, the employee did not work in the 48 hours prior or any time after their test, so therefore no close contact occurred.
- Last week we reported there were two employees who tested negative but had begun to display possible symptoms. Both have subsequently received a second negative COVID test result.

Our staffs 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.

Group Gatherings

In recent days the news has issued many reports on local businesses and events that have had guests that have tested positive for COVID -19.

New York State allows events of 50 people or less, suggests social distancing and the adherence of wearing masks in public venues. Restaurants are no longer allowed to sell adult beverages unless it is accompanied by a food order.

We understand that these are difficult rules. Summer brings weddings, graduation parties, and family reunions, time to enjoy with friends, and of course after months of staying home, the desire to get out and have a drink, dinner and socialization.

We are all allowed to do whatever we enjoy and want on our time away from work, but we ask that you be respectful of the vulnerable population you care for as well as being respectful of yourself, your family, and your peers. We all have a tendency to think we are invincible and it will never happen to us, but this is a sneaky virus and the sad reality is, it can happen to us.



So do enjoy your summer and special times, but take the precautions to keep yourselves healthy and safe. We care about you.

Sincerely,

Linda Parke,
Director of Human Resources