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June 11, 2020

To All Staff:

This is week ten 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	8**	0	0	8**	1	0	0	1
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	6	0	0	6	1	0	0	1
GSFH	16	0	0	16	0	0	0	0
GSVE	11	0	0	11	1	0	0	1
Tested as of 6/3/20					6/4/20-6/10/20			
** last week, new suspected case info for Chase was omitted from the report; 2 staff members were tested: both negative								
Please note some testing was purely precautionary as the individual was asymptomatic. Ex: fall led to ER visit and tested.								

Phase 3 Opening

Phase 3 allows indoor dining, but with a series of restrictions, including:

- Indoor capacity limited to no more than 50% of maximum occupancy.
- All indoor and outdoor tables with seating for customers separated by a minimum of six feet in all directions.
- When social distancing is not feasible between tables, physical barriers enacted between tables that are at least five feet high and cannot block exits.
- Patrons must wear face coverings except while seated.
- Signs that show six-foot spacing in any lines for customers waiting to order, pick-up food, be seated or use the restroom.

Phase 3 will let nail salons, massage businesses, spa services, and tattoo parlors to begin operations.

Those, too, come with the same social distancing and 50% occupancy requirements as other businesses.

They have their own set of rules, though, that include closing all waiting rooms and the wearing of masks for customers and employees. Employees in direct contact with customers also need to wear face shields, like hair dressers need to do.

NYS DOH Mandatory Testing for all Staff

The NYS Executive Order, which required that we test each employee two times per week expired on June 9, 2020. Governor Cuomo has now extended the Executive Order through July 9th, but changed it from having to be tested two times a week to one time per week.

The new testing times will be as follows:

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

There will be no out-of-pocket cost to you for this required testing. NYS has deemed it ‘medically necessary’ and is urging insurance companies to absorb this cost. Insurance companies are challenging this. If you receive a bill at home for this test, please let your HR department know immediately. Regardless of the outcome with the insurance companies, you are not responsible for any portion of the cost of the weekly testing on-site.

For testing performed off-site for whatever reason, there are different rules. If you go to the site at Binghamton University, there is no charge to you or your insurance. If you are tested at a local doctor’s office or hospital, it would be submitted to your insurance. Through June 18th, insurance companies are waiving any out of pocket costs, such as deductibles, for COVID testing and treatment. We do not have any indication at this time as to whether this waiver will be extended.

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

	Tested	Positive	Negative	Inconclusive or Indeterminate
GSFH	174	1	172	1
GSVE	156	0	155	1
Chase	127	1	126	0

In the last round of testing, we had one asymptomatic employee test positive at GSFH, and one at Chase. The GSFH employee works in the staff only office area and the Chase employee is in the nursing department. Both are in self-isolation for 14 days. Per Department of Health recommendations, we interviewed these people extensively to identify anyone that they were potentially in close contact with during the 48 hours prior to being tested. Close contact is defined as contact within 6 feet for a period of at least 10 minutes (CDC recently revised this to 15 minutes but NYS is adhering to the more stringent 10 minutes). Those people deemed to have had close contact were notified and instructed to self-quarantine for 14 days. Self-quarantine is defined as self-monitoring for symptoms and staying at home, with the exception of reporting to work. No resident was identified as having close contact with this individual during the look-back period at GSFH. At Chase, two residents were identified as having close contact with the individual who tested positive, and they have been placed on droplet precautions and are being closely monitored. Their families have been notified.

As previously stated, our team is monitoring the situation in collaboration with both the NYS Department of Health and our local health department and will follow all their recommendations.

Please remember we are testing over 500 staff members each week between all of our campuses. With this type of wide-spread testing, it is highly probable that we will have some additional positive results. We will continue to follow appropriate infection control protocols to protect our residents and staff, and will continue to conduct the weekly staff testing, and will alert you to any positive results.



We still do not have a resident with the COVID-19, but as we have stressed previously that's not to say we won't have one in the future. Be safe and enjoy Phase 3 re-opening!

Sincerely,

Linda Parke,
Director of Human Resources