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June 18, 2020

To All Staff:

This is week eleven 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	9	0	0	9	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	Residents Negative
Chase	7	0	0	7	0	0	0	0
GSFH	16	0	0	16	3	3	0	0
GSVE	12	0	0	12	0	0	0	0
Tested as of 6/10/20					6/11/20-6/17/20			
Please note some testing was purely precautionary as the individual was asymptomatic. Ex: fall led to ER visit and tested.								

Extra...Extra...Read all about it!

On Friday, July 3rd there will be an insert in the Binghamton Press honoring all staff. Michael J. Keenen, President/CEO has written an article titled “Heroes of the Pandemic.” In the article he recognizes the efforts of all the employees of Good Shepherd Communities, Good Shepherd Fairview Home, Good Shepherd Village at Endwell, and Chase Memorial Nursing Home for their continued dedication and commitment from the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Inside the insert is a listing of all the employees’ names and a description of the departments and some of the ways each department rose to the challenges posed by COVID-19.

Please be sure to look at the insert and know that each of you truly are heroes. Thank you for all you do.

NYS DOH Mandatory Testing for all Staff (Reminder)

The NYS Executive Order, which required that we test all staff, has been extended through July 9th, but the Executive has been changed to one time per week. In order to meet this requirement, anyone on the schedule that is working must be tested at least once per week. Per the DOH guidelines, the week runs from Wednesday-

Tuesday. With that said, we are now in the week of June 17-23; a new week will start on June 24, which will run to June 30. 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.

The testing times for each campus 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

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

	Tested	Positive	Negative	Inconclusive or Indeterminate
GSFH	159	1	156	2
GSVE	140	0	139	1
Chase	106	0	104	2

In the last round of testing, we had one asymptomatic employee test positive at GSFH on the Rehab Unit. The employee is self-isolating for 14 days.

Per Department of Health recommendations for contact tracing, we interviewed the staff member 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. No other staff members were in close contact with the staff member who tested positive. Two residents who were in close contact are being closely monitored and are on droplet precautions for 14 days as a further safeguard. Neither is currently showing any symptoms of COVID. Their families have been notified. The unit has also been closed.

GSFH Administration and the GSFH nursing department are monitoring the situation in collaboration with both the NYS DOH and local Department of Health and will follow all recommendations. At this point, Department of Health has not indicated further wide-spread testing is required in response to this news. Please remember we recently completed a round of baseline testing for all of our residents, and we test staff on a weekly basis.

Please note 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 Care Differential & Free Meal Program

In April the “We Care” differential was created, each staff member received \$2.00 per hour differential for all hours where the employee has been on site working (with the exception of senior management) to say thank you for being here for our residents and each other. Michael J. Keenen, President/CEO, with Board approval, extended the “We Care” differential and the free meal program through May and then again through June. Please note, per Michael J. Keenen’s letter dated May 22, 2020, the “We Care” differential and the free meal program is scheduled to end as of June 30, 2020.

Phase 3 NYS Forward Re-Opening

IL Gatherings in Public Outdoor Settings UPDATED

Broome County is now in Phase 3. This will allow indoor dining as broadly outlined in last week's letter. In addition, on June 15th, a new Executive Order increased the limit for non-essential gatherings from 10 to 25, as long as social distancing protocols and cleaning and disinfection protocols as established by the Department of Health are adhered to.

Independent Living Dining

We will be re-opening our Independent Living Dining areas Monday, June 22nd. Our re-opening plans are based on the NYS guidance on public restaurants. Campus specific plans have been communicated to our IL residents.

GSVE IL Pool Re-opening

The pool will be re-opening for group instruction on Monday, June 22nd.

Beauty Salon

NYS authorized Beauty Salons to re-open as part of Phase 2. However, as previously discussed, NYS phases for re-opening do not apply to Health Care. At GSFH, the salon is located in a central area, and we do not feel we can open under current NYS DOH guidelines. The same would hold true for GSVE HC.

Nick's has reopened their satellite location at the Village Center as of this Tuesday. Residents with appointments should enter for now from the ramp entry at the back of the Village Center.

Plexiglas Barriers

To protect our residents, staff and future visitors, we have installed or will install Plexiglas barriers in many locations, such as the GSFH Café, GSVE Marketplace, and Reception desks.

Health Care: Nursing Homes and Adult Care Facilities

Governor Cuomo has not authorized re-opening for visitors as of yet and has not provided any indication of a time line. In response to a news request for comment on re-opening nursing homes, the governor's office provided the following statement: "We're reviewing the data and looking for best practices when dealing with this vulnerable population." Good Shepherd is proactively building a plan for re-opening when the time comes, but we will have to wait for the NYS guidance on protocols and restrictions.

NYS did re-open hospitals and group homes to visitors this week, which we find encouraging.

Hospitals will be allowed to accept visitors at their discretion. Officials say the hospitals must follow state guidelines including: Time limited visits, requiring visitors to wear PPE, and symptom and temperature checks for visitors.

Beginning Friday, group homes certified by the NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities may also begin visitations, but they must notify the state and follow the state guidelines. Visitors must wear masks and are also subject to symptom and temperature checks.



We sincerely appreciate all your hard work and dedication. We're better because of the way you care for our residents. Thanks for all you do!

Sincerely,

Linda Parke,
Director of Human Resources