



May 15, 2020

To All Staff,

This is week six 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	3	0	0	3	1	0	0	1
GSFH	2	0	0	2	1	1	0	0
GSVE	9	0	1*	8	1	1	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	5	0	0	5	0	0	0	0
GSFH	9	0	0	9	2	1	0	1
GSVE	5	0	0	5	1	0	0	1
Tested as of 5/6/20				5/7/20-5/13/20				
Please note some testing was purely precautionary as the individual was asymptomatic. Ex: fall led to ER visit and tested.								
Correction: Last week's count for GSVE residents was missing 1 resident tested which was a negative.								

NYS DOH Mandatory Testing for all Staff

On Sunday, Governor Cuomo announced NYS will require that all Nursing Home and Adult Care Facilities test all personnel for COVID-19, twice a week and that facilities had to submit a plan do to so by 5 pm on Wednesday. This was certainly a surprise to all of us especially with no consultation with the facilities and no assurance that sufficient testing kits would be available. These requirements will be in effect until June 9, 2020, and facilities must begin the testing no later than May 20th. Logistically, meeting this new mandate is challenging to say the least.

NYS will allow facilities to provide the testing in-house or arrange for the testing off-site, but we believe it would be less burdensome to our employees if we provide the testing on-site as our primary choice. Governor Cuomo also ordered that any personnel that refuse to be tested for COVID-19 shall be considered to have an outdated or incomplete health assessment and shall be prohibited from providing services to the Nursing Home, or Adult Care Facility, and must be removed from the schedule. We understand this is going to be an inconvenience to all of our staff, but please note, this is a directive from the Governor's office, NOT Good Shepherd.

We have contracted with a company to provide the testing kits, and run the lab results. **The tests will be conducted through a Nasal Swab, not the more invasive Nasopharyngeal Swab**; this is a simple painless procedure.

As mandated by Governor Cuomo, we filed our plans with DOH yesterday to comply with this directive and will begin testing next week unless further guidance emerges from NYS.

Please see the attached for information specific to your campus.

Resident Testing

We will also be beginning resident testing in the near future. This would be testing for all residents, not just those who are symptomatic or are suspected to have been exposed to COVID-19. We hope to have more details on this testing next week.

Years of Service Recognition

During the month of May we usually hold the Years of Service Celebrations. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will not be holding the ceremonies in May this year. We hope to celebrate this milestone event later this year. However, we did not want those employees that have reached a significant mile stone to go without receiving their gift. Therefore, those individuals will still be receiving their gift in May, but the celebration will be at a later date.

First Responders Parade

On May 8th, Broome County First Responders toured all the area's 11 Nursing Homes and 2 hospitals to salute our staffs. Staff at GSFH and GSVE lined the up to watch outside while our residents enjoyed the event from their windows.



Personal Protective Equipment

We continue to purchase significant quantities of PPEs, and we have also received supplies from Broome County Office of Emergency Services and from an as yet unknown source (possibly FEMA).



Good Shepherd wants to recognize all our employees, not only for the excellent care you provide every day, but also for your dedication to our residents during this COVID-19 pandemic. You are the HEROES of long-term care. Wishing you a happy National Nursing Home Week!

Sincerely,

Linda Parke
Director of Human Resources