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To All Staff,

This is week seven 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	4	0	0	4	2	1	0	1
GSFH	3	0	0	3	1	0	1	0
GSVE	10	0	1*	9	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	5	0	0	5	0	0	0	0
GSFH	11	0	0	11	2	1	0	1
GSVE	6	0	0	6	2	1	0	1
Tested as of 5/13/20		5/14/20-5/20/20						
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 twice weekly testing and resident baseline testing discussed below, or staff testing done as part of any pre-op procedures.

We have a daily monitoring system to monitor all residents for signs/symptoms of COVID-19, as well as our daily screening for all staff.

Good Shepherd Fairview Home ACF Staff Member: Positive for COVID-19

On Wednesday we notified you that one of our GSFH Assisted Living (4th floor) staff members tested positive for COVID-19. This staff member also worked at another area nursing home who announced on May 12th that a resident had tested positive, and where there were subsequent positive cases. May 12th was the last day this employee worked there, and she has told us she did not have contact with the resident who had tested positive as of that time. As a precautionary measure, the staff member was tested on Thursday May 14th. This test was negative. The employee then worked May 16th, May 17th and May 18th before being retested on May 19th due to the development of symptoms of concern. As previously disclosed, this test was positive.

However, please note there are no residents exhibiting symptoms of illness at this time. We have one additional GSFH staff member who did exhibit mild symptoms (nasal congestion/runny nose and sore throat) who was sent home as a precaution yesterday.

Good Shepherd Fairview Home Administration, ACF Management, and HR Wellness are monitoring the situation in collaboration with both the NYS Department of Health and our local department of health and will follow all their recommendations. At this point, Department of Health has not indicated wide-spread testing is required but they have directed that the 4th floor should be closed in a similar fashion as to when we have a respiratory outbreak such as the flu. Some of the precautions we are taking include asking residents to remain in their rooms as much as possible, and staff and residents are all wearing masks whenever in proximity. We also attempt to keep consistent staff on the same floor whenever possible, and we are increasing taking temperatures from once per day to once per shift. We are also contact tracing this staff member's movements on the days she worked to identify who she had contact with and to what degree.

We will provide an update next week unless circumstances warrant an earlier notification.

Extended “We Care” Differential and Free Staff Meals

See attached letter from Mike Keenan.

CMS Guidance on Re-opening

CMS is providing detailed recommendations on re-opening businesses and nursing homes, while NYS also has specific plans for re-opening. Next week we will feature how we expect this to impact our facilities.

NYS DOH Voluntary Testing for all Residents

Last week, we announced Good Shepherd had been in contact with the NYS Department of Health (DOH) to explore COVID-19 viral testing for all our Health Care residents (voluntary basis) and staff (GS required.) As of today, this remains a work in progress as we arrange for processing the testing at GSFH and GSVE. Chase has been able to test their residents and they are awaiting results. This testing is for Skilled Nursing and Adult Care residents. Independent Living residents who feel they should be tested are encouraged to follow up with their personal health care provider.

NYS DOH Mandatory Testing for all Staff

We began testing all of our staffs as required by NYS Executive Order on Wednesday, May 20th. Each employee will be tested two times per week. We will define our week as Sunday-Saturday, although the first week will be a short week- Wednesday-Saturday. If you do not work **at all** during a week, you do not need to be tested.

The test is a simple nasal swab, and results are expected within 48 hours. Each campus is handling the logistics on their own (ex: where testing, hours testing is available and who is handling the collections). Time spent on testing should be paid time.

There will be no out of pocket cost to you for this required testing. NYS has deemed it ‘medically necessary’.

But the critical issue for you to know is **this is absolutely required by NYS**. Governor Cuomo’s order specifically stated 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 appreciate your cooperation in helping us comply with this new requirement. We will be tracking compliance, but ask that you help us by self-tracking as well. You need two tests per week- be sure you get them!!

Donations

Thank you to the following individuals or groups for their generous donations of Personal Protective Equipment or other support to our staff and residents:

- Pizza for GSVE nursing home staff from the family of Mary Vivona
- GSVE received staff meals for all from Water Street Brewing company

Memorial Day Weekend

This weekend is Memorial Day weekend the unofficial beginning of summer. Traditionally, we all look forward to trips to parks, picnics, and swimming on this holiday. Please remember it is still very important to continue social distancing, wear masks, and be diligent about hand washing. Although the COVID-19 virus is on the lower end of the curve, the opportunity for resurgence is great. The only way we can prevent that is to practice all the steps we have been doing for the past two months. We are all getting tired of this new way of life, but if we all practice safety precautions now we will be working towards a safer environment for everyone.

Have a safe and healthy holiday!

Sincerely,



Linda Parke
Director of Human Resources