



November 5, 2020

To All Staff:

**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	Employees tested	Tests Pending	To date (since pandemic start)		New Suspected Cases			
			Employees Positive	Employees Negative	Employees tested	Tests Pending	Employees Positive	Employees Negative
Chase	12	0	0	12	0	0	0	0
GSFH	12	0	3	9	2	0	0	1 and 1 inconclusive
GSVE	17	0	2	15	0	0	0	0

Residents	Residents tested	Tests Pending	To date (since pandemic start)		New Suspected Cases			
			Residents Positive	Residents Negative	Residents tested	Tests Pending	Residents Positive	Residents Negative
Chase	13	0	0	13	0	0	0	0
GSFH	41	0	8	33	1	0	0	1
GSVE	30	0	0	30	0	0	0	0

Tested as of 10/28/20

10/29/20-11/4/20

Please note the chart above is for testing conducted for cause only. At this time, it does not include the mass staff weekly testing discussed below, resident exposure testing, or staff testing done as part of any pre-op procedures.

**NYS DOH Mandatory Testing for all Staff: Results of week of 10/29/20-11/04/20:**

**Mass Employee Testing**

	Tested	Positive	Negative	Inconclusive or Indeterminate
GSFH	163	2 repeat positives	160	1

GSVE	133	2	131	0
Chase	105	0	105	0

**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 November 4-10. A new week will start on November 11, which will run to November 11-17. 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 Executive Order was extending through December 3, 2020. We will keep you posted on any updates.

The testing times for each campus will be as follows:

<u>GSFH</u>		<u>GSVE</u>		<u>Chase</u>	
Tuesday	2-4pm	Monday	2-4pm	Monday	5-8am & 1-4pm
Wednesday	7-9am	Tuesday	2-4pm	Tuesday	5-8am & 1-4pm
Thursday	2-4pm	Wednesday	2-4pm	Wednesday	5-8am & 1-4pm
Friday	7-9am	Friday	2-4pm		

**If you miss the weekly test, you cannot work and will not receive any pay, including benefit time, until you are tested. This includes using benefit time that was pre-approved for any time you are non-compliant prior to being tested.** Please understand we are taking this strong stance not to be punitive but because NYS DOH will be monitoring our compliance with the weekly testing requirements, and any non-compliance among our employees can result in the facility itself being penalized. We have eliminated the earlier requirement that we receive a negative test result prior to return in recognition that testing results are now taking an extended time. **Please help us meet this NYS DOH requirement by planning ahead and taking responsibility to be in compliance even if you are scheduled to be out for some portion of the testing week.** Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

**Staff Testing 10/29/20-11/04/20**

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

*GSFH:* No new positive staff results

*GSVE:*

11/4/20

- A staff member in the dietary department has *tested positive for COVID-19*. The employee is asymptomatic and will self-isolate for 14 days. One other staff member was identified as a close contact.
- A staff member who works in the Resident Services Department has *tested positive for COVID-19*. The employee is asymptomatic and will self-isolate for 14 days. This individual had close contact with one IL resident who has been notified. **All close contacts have been notified. If you have not been notified, you were not in close contact.** This individual was also on the ALR unit recently, which means we will need to pause visitation.

*Chase:* No new positive staff results.

**Resident Testing 10/29/20-11/04/20**

*GSFH:* No new positive resident tests.

*Chase:* No new positive resident tests.

GSVE:

11/1/20

- One of our residents who lives on the Skilled Nursing Unit has *tested positive for COVID-19*. The resident is symptomatic, and will self-isolate for 14 days. Five staff members were considered close contacts with the resident and will self-quarantine while not working, the exposure is considered low level because of PPE that was worn during contact. No residents were in close contact. In accordance with CMS guidelines, all Skilled Nursing residents will be tested weekly for COVID-19 until there are no positive COVID-19 results for 14 days. All staff are already being tested weekly per NYS. The unit is closed and visitation continues to be on pause.

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

### **NYS Quarantine Travel Restrictions**

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced new guidelines allowing out-of-state travelers to New York to "test out" of the mandatory 14-day quarantine. Travelers from states (Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Connecticut) that are contiguous with New York will continue to be exempt from the travel advisory. Essential workers will continue to be exempt as well. The new protocol is effective Wednesday, November 4.

**Per NYS, if you travel to a prohibited area, you cannot return without providing the results of a negative test conducted within 24 hours of your return to NYS.** GSC has determined the period while you await your results is not eligible to quarantine pay and you may not use benefit time. If you do decide to travel to a restricted zone, you should carefully consider the availability of testing upon your return, and the average length of time people are waiting for their results - 5+ days unless you have access to the rapid response testing which is not widely available.

In addition, if you do become ill, NYS COVID pay is not available per NYS guidelines because you have traveled to a high risk area as defined by NYS.

**We are highly recommending for the health and welfare of our residents and staff members that you adhere to the travel restrictions.** We understand this may mean canceling vacations or missing important life events, and know how difficult these decisions can be. We all have a responsibility to our fellow New Yorkers, our co-workers, and our residents, to do our part to avoid the spread of COVID-19.

For people outside the nursing home guidelines the following applies:

New guidelines allowing out-of-state travelers to New York to "test out" of the mandatory 14-day quarantine. Travelers from states that are contiguous with New York will continue to be exempt from the travel advisory; however, covered travelers must continue to fill out the [Traveler Health Form](#).

For any traveler to New York State from out of state, exempting the contiguous states, the new guidelines for travelers to test-out of the mandatory 14-day quarantine are below:

- For travelers who were in another state for more than 24 hours:
  - Travelers must obtain a test within three days of departure from that state.
  - The traveler must, upon arrival in New York, quarantine for three days.
  - On day 4 of their quarantine, the traveler must obtain seek another COVID test. If both tests come back negative, the traveler may exit quarantine early upon receipt of the second negative diagnostic test.
- For travelers who were in another state for less than 24 hours:

- The traveler does not need a test prior to their departure from the other state, and does not need to quarantine upon arrival in New York State.
- However, the traveler must fill out the traveler information form upon entry into New York State, and take a COVID diagnostic test 4 days after their arrival in New York.

Local health departments will validate tests, if necessary, and if a test comes back positive, will issue isolation orders and initiate contact tracing. The local health department must make contact with the state the traveler came from, to ensure contact tracing proceeds there as well. All travelers must continue to fill out the traveler information form upon arrival into New York State to contribute to New York State's robust contact tracing program.

### **COVID Positive Unit Differential - GSVE**

Once again, the Board has authorized a targeted differential to recognize those employees who are working on a unit with COVID positive residents. This differential will be \$2\hour, for time spent on a unit with COVID Positive residents. This is to recognize the dedication involved in rising to the challenge to care for these residents.



We really appreciate your on-going commitment to Good Shepherd-thanks for all you do!

Sincerely,

Linda Parke  
Director of Human Resources