



October 1, 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	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	11	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0		
GSFH	10	0	3	7	0	0	0	0	0		
GSVE	12	0	1	11	0	0	0	0	0		
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	10	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0		
GSFH	32	0	4	28	2	0	1 (repeat positive)	0	1		
GSVE	27	0	0	27	1	0	0	0	1		
Tested as of 9/16/20				9/24/20-9/30/20							
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 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 9/24-9/30/20:

	Tested	Positive	Negative	Inconclusive or Indeterminate
GSFH	162	2 (both were repeat positives, not new cases)	160	0
GSVE	159	0	159	0
Chase	59	0	59	0

Staff Testing 9/24/20-9/30/20

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

GSFH

- No new positive staff results.

GSVE

- No new positive staff results.

Chase

- No new positive staff results.

Resident Testing 9/24-9/30/20

GSFH

- No positive resident results.

Chase

- No positive resident tests.

GSVE

- No positive resident tests.
- 2nd Mass testing for SNF residents per CMS guidelines was conducted and all results are negative.

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

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 September 30-October 6. A new week will start on October 7th, which will run to October 7-13. 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 October 4, 2020. We will keep you posted on any updates.

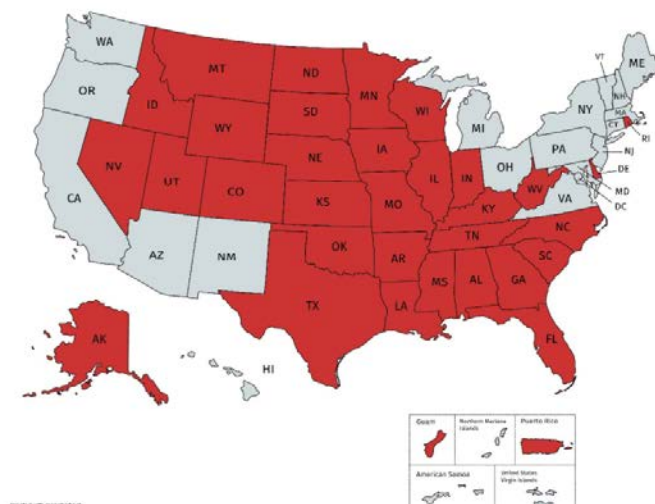
The testing times for each campus will be as follows:

<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.

NYS Quarantine Travel Restrictions

The list has been revised again as of 9/29/2020 (changes in italics), the advisory applies to anyone traveling from Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, *Colorado*, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, and two territories – Guam and Puerto Rico. *Arizona* and *Virginia* were removed from the list.



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.

This week Governor Cuomo had a news conference reminding international travelers entering NY from Level 2 and 3 countries to quarantine and fill out the NYS Department of Health traveler health form to further prevent the spread of COVID as countries across the globe experience alarming second waves of the virus. This executive order has been in place since March, 2020, requiring mandatory quarantine – that’s all but 31 countries on the globe.

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. But 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.

UnitedHealthcare Notice (GSC, GSFH, GSVE Employee Health Insurance)

This is copied from UHC provided notice. (We are seeking similar clarification on our Chase plan through Excellus):

“UnitedHealthcare recognizes that information about COVID-19 may change often. We want to help you understand your health care options, and how those options are covered. We are focused on making it easier for you to get care from your local provider and UnitedHealthcare’s preferred partners, today and beyond.

Talk to a doctor from home using telehealth services

UnitedHealthcare is committed to offering you simple, convenient ways to access care. Telehealth gives you access to health care providers, such as your own health care provider or specialist, outside of the provider’s office, including from your home or workplace. Many providers may offer telehealth visits through your phone or computer for a variety of care needs, including routine and chronic care.

Beginning Oct. 1, 2020, telehealth visits not related to COVID-19 will be covered according to your plan benefits. If you need care related to COVID-19, your cost-share* (copays, deductibles, and coinsurance) for COVID-19 telehealth visits is \$0 with network providers until the end of the National Public Health Emergency period, currently scheduled to end Oct. 22, 2020. Sign in to myuhc.com to view cost-share information or find a network provider.

Virtual Visit providers for 24/7 urgent care

With Virtual Visit providers Teladoc®, Amwell®, or Doctor on Demand™ you can talk to a health care provider online 24/7 for urgent care needs, like seasonal flu, allergies, pink eye and more (if covered by your plan; sign in to myuhc.com to understand your benefit).

Remember to always show your UnitedHealthcare health plan ID card for COVID-19-related medical care and visits for testing or treatment. Also, keep your primary care provider informed of any COVID-19 testing results or care you might receive.”

Food Delivery – Reminder

When staff orders food delivery from a restaurant or delivery service, arrangements should be made to meet the delivery person outside the building for the delivery. We have had reports of delivery personnel entering public spaces without screening to look for the person placing the order.

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

Sincerely,

Linda Parke
Director of Human Resources