



October 15, 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	
GSFH	10	0	3	7	1	0	0	1	
GSVE	13	0	1	12	2	0	0	2	
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	
GSFH	35	0	5	30	0	0	0	0	
GSVE	28	0	0	28	0	0	0	0	
Tested as of 10/7/20				10/8/20-10/14/20					
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 10/8-10/14/20:

Mass Employee Testing				
	Tested	Positive	Negative	Inconclusive or Indeterminate
GSFH	188	4 (1 was repeat)	184	0
GSVE	138	0	138	0
Chase	131	0	127	4

Staff Testing 10/8/20-10/14/20

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

GSFH

On 10/9/20, three employees of GSFH tested positive for COVID.

- The first employee works in the skilled nursing facility in the nursing department. This employee is asymptomatic and will self-isolate for 14 days. One resident and two staff members were considered close contacts of the first employee who works in the skilled nursing facility.
- The second and third employees are first floor office staff in our skilled nursing facility. These employees are asymptomatic and will self-isolate for 14 days. A total of seven staff members were considered close contacts of the second employee and third employee who work in offices on the 1st floor of the skilled nursing facility.
- All close contacts will follow department of health instructions regarding quarantine. All close contacts and the family member of the resident who was a close contact have been notified. If you have not been notified, you were not in close contact.
- **Per NYS Department of Health guidelines, we are required to pause our Skilled Nursing Facility visitation until further notice.** We are also required to perform mass testing on all residents in the skilled nursing facility every 3-7 days after an outbreak (defined as 1 case of either positive staff or resident) for a minimum of 14 days. **The nursing home will need to be 14-days without any new positive staff or resident cases before we are able to reopen.** When this occurs, we will send out another communication alerting families and residents.

GSVE

- No new positive staff members.

Chase

- No new positive staff results.

Resident Testing 10/8-10/14/20

GSFH

- **One resident on the Rehab Unit who was tested as part of the mass testing required after the employee positive results discussed above has tested positive for COVID.** This resident received a negative test before entering the facility, but then tested positive as of yesterday. Contact tracing is ongoing, and GSFH will issue a more detailed broadcast to GSFH staff and families later today.

Chase

- No positive resident tests.

GSVE

- No positive resident tests.

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 October 14-20. A new week will start on October 21, which will run to October 21-27. 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 November 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.

NYS Quarantine Travel Restrictions

The list has been revised again as of 10/13/2020 (changes in italics), the advisory applies to anyone traveling from Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, *Michigan*, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, *Ohio*, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, and two territories – Guam and Puerto Rico. No states 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.

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.

Southern Tier: Yellow Cluster

Parts of the Southern Tier continue to be designated a 'yellow cluster'. The following summarizes what this means:

Type of Activity	RED	ORANGE	YELLOW
Worship	25% capacity 10 people maximum	33% capacity 25 people maximum	50% capacity
Mass Gathering	Prohibited	10 people maximum, indoor and outdoor	25 people maximum, indoors and outdoors
Businesses	Only essential businesses open	Closing high-risk non-essential business (gyms, personal care, etc.)	Open
Dining	Takeout only	Outdoor dining only, 4 person maximum per table	Indoor and outdoor dining, 4 person maximum per table
Schools	CLOSED Remote-only		Open Mandatory weekly testing of students and teachers/staff for in-person settings. DOH will set percent by Friday.

WEAR A MASK. GET TESTED. SAVE LIVES.

Currently, GSFH is the only Good Shepherd facility located within a cluster hot spot zone, but many of you or your family members may reside within the yellow zone or have commitments that requires you to enter these zones. Please remember to be vigilant in following infection control guidelines to protect you, your families, your coworkers and our residents.

Are you curious whether some place you are planning to visit is in a cluster hot spot zone? NYS has developed a great tool where you simply enter the address, and it will tell you if the address is in a hot spot zone, and if so, the color level. You can access this here: <https://covidhotspotlookup.health.ny.gov/#/home> .



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

Sincerely,

Linda Parke
Director of Human Resources