



October 22, 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	Employees
Chase	11	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0
GSFH	11	0	3	8	1	0	0	0	1
GSVE	15	0	1	14	2	1	1	1	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	Residents	Residents
Chase	10	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0
GSFH	35	0	5	30	2	0	0	2	0
GSVE	28	0	0	28	1	0	0	0	1
Tested as of 10/14/20				10/15/20-10/21/20					

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 10/15-10/21/20:**

Mass Employee Testing				
	Tested	Positive	Negative	Inconclusive or Indeterminate
GSFH	202	3 (1 was repeat)	199	0
GSVE	160	0	160	0
Chase	94	0	93	1

**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 21-27. A new week will start on October 28, which will run to October 28-November 3. 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.

#### ***Staff Testing 10/15/20-10/21/20***

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

##### *GSFH*

- On 10/16/20, we learned two of our employees at Good Shepherd Fairview Home who work on the East Wing first floor in the office area have tested positive for COVID-19. We have confirmed neither staff member had any close contact with any other staff member or resident. Both employees will self-isolate.

##### *GSVE*

- On 10/21/20, we learned one of our staff members who works at Good Shepherd Village at Endwell in the Skilled Nursing Facility has *tested positive for COVID-19*. The employee is symptomatic, and will self-isolate for 14 days. No residents were in close contact and one staff was in close contact. This person has been notified. As a precautionary measure and in accordance with CMS guidelines, all Skilled Nursing residents will be tested for COVID-19. All staff are already being tested weekly per NYS. This also means visitation for SNF residents must pause for 14 days.

##### *Chase*

- No new positive staff results.

#### ***Resident Testing 10/15-10/21/20***

##### *GSFH*

- On 10/14/20, we learned that one of our residents on the rehab unit *tested positive for COVID-19* as a result of surveillance testing. There are no residents who were considered close contacts to the positive resident. A total of 15 clinical GSFH staff members were considered close contacts of the positive resident. All close contacts will follow Department of Health instructions regarding quarantine. All close contacts have been notified. If you have not been notified, you were not in close contact.

- Along with required staff testing, we are also required to complete mass testing on all residents when we have a positive staff or resident. We completed our 2<sup>nd</sup> round of mass testing of residents on Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. On 10/17/20, we learned that one more of our residents on the rehab unit *tested positive for COVID-19*. There are no residents who were considered close contacts to the positive resident. At this time, 10 clinical GSFH staff members were considered close contacts of the positive resident but were considered to have “low level exposure” due to the PPE being used while caring for this resident. All close contacts will follow Department of Health instructions regarding quarantine.
- 10/21/20: A rehab resident was tested via a rapid test due to displaying some COVID symptoms and the results were positive. No other residents or staff members were identified as close contacts due to strict adherence to infection control standards and proper use of Personal Protective Equipment.

Please note none of these residents currently requires hospitalization and are being cohorted on the unit in a separate area with plastic barriers. All staff are following all required infection control procedures.

#### *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 Quarantine Travel Restrictions**

The list has been revised again as of 10/20/2020 (changes in italics), the advisory applies to anyone traveling from Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, *Arizona*, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, *Maryland*, 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. Connecticut, New Jersey and Pennsylvania meet the criteria, but given their proximity in the region Cuomo says a quarantine is not viable. He discourages non-essential travel to those states.

**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.

#### **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 may reside within the yellow zone or have commitments that require you to enter these zones. Please be vigilant in following infection control guidelines to protect yourselves, 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