



September 17, 2020

To All Staff:

GSVE ALR\EALR\SNALR

We are excited to announce that GSVE ALR opened yesterday for visitations. Letters and fact sheets on how these visits were to be conducted were sent to family members, and these will be updated as needed and re-broadcast. Also, please remember that if at any time, a resident or staff member in ALR tests positive, we will have to suspend visitation for 14 days.

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	9	0	3	6	0	0	0	0	
GSVE	11	0	1	10	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	
GSFH	29	0	4	25	0	0	0	0	
GSVE	25	0	0	25	1	0	0	1	
Tested as of 9/9/20				9/10/20-9/16/20					
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 GS week of 9/10-9/16:

Mass Employee Testing				
	Tested	Positive	Negative	Inconclusive or Indeterminate
GSFH	209	6 (3 are repeat positives)	203	0
GSVE	176	1	175	0
Chase	156	2 (1 is a repeat positive)	151	3

Staff Testing

In the last round of staff testing (9/10/20-9/16/20), we had the following positive results:

GSFH

- On 9/11/20, one of our outpatient Therapy Department staff members tested positive for COVID-19. The employee is asymptomatic, and will self-isolate for 14 days.
 - The staff member had close contact with the following:
 - 4 residents on the Rehab Unit
 - 1 discharged resident from the Rehab Unit
 - 2 residents on Cameo Court
 - 1 independent resident
 - 6 outpatient rehab clients
 - Exposed residents have been placed on contact droplet precautions. It is the nature of a therapist's job to be in close proximity for an often prolonged duration with the majority of their caseload, which is why this is a higher exposure rate. Both the therapist and the residents all wore masks during their treatments.
 - The staff member did not have close contact with any other staff members.
- On 9/11/20, a dietary employee who worked in SNF also tested positive. This employee is asymptomatic and will self-isolate for 14 days.
 - No residents were in close contact with this individual.
 - Two staff members were in close contact with the dietary employee, and will follow all department of health instructions regarding quarantine.
- On 9/11/20, an employee on our assisted living program unit also tested positive. This employee has mild symptoms and will self-isolate for 14 days.
 - No residents were in close contact with this individual.
 - Three staff members were in close contact with the Assisted Living employee, and will follow all department of health instructions regarding quarantine.

GSVE

- On 9/16/20, a member of our SNF staff tested positive for COVID -19. The employee is asymptomatic and will self-isolate for 14 days.
 - The staff member did not have any close contact with any residents or other staff.

Chase

- On 9/10/20 a member of our administrative team tested positive for COVID-19. The employee is asymptomatic and will self-isolate for 14 days.
 - No residents were in close contact.
 - We originally reported 12 staff members were in close contact but further investigation reduced this to 6. These individuals will self-quarantine for 14 days.

Resident Testing 9/10-9/16/20

GSFH

- No positive resident results. Please note that mass testing was performed in the SNF based on the positive staff member. All results are negative with one pending.

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 September 16-22. A new week will start on September 23rd, which will run to September 23-29. 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		

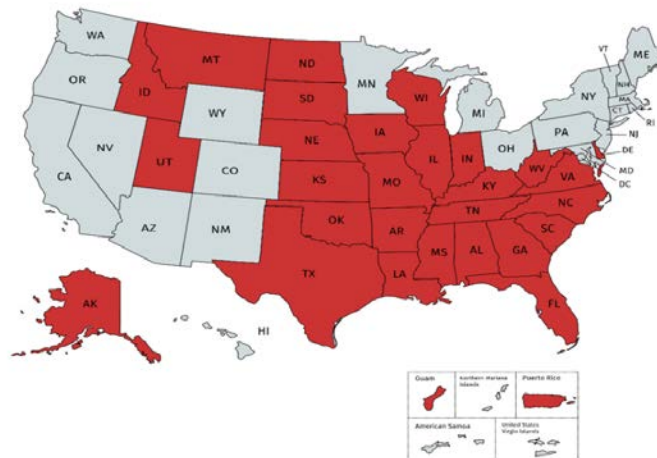
To allow the Great Room to be used for resident visitations, please note that the location for staff COVID testing at GSVE is being moved from the HC building to the Village Center. Paperwork can be completed in the Private Dining Room and testing will be on the porch area at the back of the dining area. Screening will continue in the HC building

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 9/15/2020 (changes in italics), the advisory applies to anyone traveling from Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and two territories – Guam and *Puerto Rico*. The states that were removed from the list this week were: *California, Hawaii, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, and Ohio*.



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.

Pandemic Emergency Plans (PEPs)

NYS is now requiring that Nursing Home operators prepare and make available on the facilities website, and immediately upon request, a Pandemic Emergency Plan. All GSC facilities are in compliance with this directive.



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

Sincerely,

Linda Parke
Director of Human Resources