



September 3, 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	8	0	3	5	1	0	0	1
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	
GSFH	25	0	2	23	2	0	2	
GSVE	23	0	0	23	1	0	0	
Tested as of 8/26/20				8/27/20-9/2/20				
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 8/26-9/2:

Mass Employee Testing				
	Tested	Positive	Negative	Inconclusive or Indeterminate
GSFH	199	3	196	0
GSVE	209	2	206	1
Chase	133	0	129	4

Staff Testing

In the last round of staff testing (8/27/20-9/2/20), we had the following positive results:

GSFH

- On 8/27/20 one of our staff members who works in dietary *tested positive for COVID-19*.
 - The employee is asymptomatic, and will self-isolate for 14 days.
 - No residents were in close contact. One staff member was in close contact and will self-quarantine.
- On 8/29/20, two of our staff members *tested positive for COVID-19*.
 - One staff member works in the Adult Care Facility and is asymptomatic. No residents were in close contact with this individual. Two staff members were in close contact and will self-quarantine for 14 days.
 - The other staff member works in dietary, and is displaying mild symptoms. This person had close contact with one other staff member who will self-quarantine. There were no residents in close contact.

GSVE

- On 8/27/20 one of our staff members who works in the ALR *tested positive for COVID-19*.
 - The employee is asymptomatic, and will self-isolate for 14 days.
 - No residents or staff were in close contact.
- On 9/1/20 one of our staff members who works in IL Dietary *tested positive for COVID-19*.
 - The employee is asymptomatic, and will self-isolate for 14 days.
 - No residents or staff were in close contact.

Chase

- No new positive results.

Resident Testing 8/27/20-9/2/20

GSFH

- On 9/2/20, two of our Adult Care Facility Assisted Living Program residents *tested positive for COVID-19*.
 - The first resident was experiencing congestion and nasal drainage, and was tested for cause. The test was positive. The resident was sent to the emergency room as a precaution due to underlying issues. The resident has since returned to the unit.
 - No residents were in close contact. Two staff members were and will self-quarantine.
 - The second resident was also tested for cause, and the test was positive. The resident remains on the unit.
 - No residents were in close contact. We do not believe any staff were in close contact but are confirming with one remaining staff member.

- Both families have been notified. The residents are confined to their rooms. We are also observing the following precautions: All meals are being served on paper and all staff are wearing N95 masks at all times when on the ALP unit and adding face shields or goggles and gowns when in *any* resident room.

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.

GSFH ALP

Please note that we now have six residents from GSFH’s ALP unit who have tested positive for COVID-19 in recent weeks. Four are hospitalized but stable, and two remain on the unit. We are focusing our energies to care for these residents, and to curtail the spread within the unit and contain it.

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 2-8. A new week will start on September 9th, which will run to September 9 – September 15. 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. 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 (through 8/30)</u>	<u>Chase (effective 8/31)</u>
Tuesday 2-4pm	Monday 2-4pm	Monday 5am-5pm	Monday 5am-8am & 1p-4p
Wednesday 7-9am	Tuesday 2-4pm	Tuesday 5am-5pm	Tuesday 5am-8am & 1p-4p
Thursday 2-4pm	Wednesday 2-4pm	Wednesday 5am-5pm	Wed 5am-8am & 1p-4p
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.

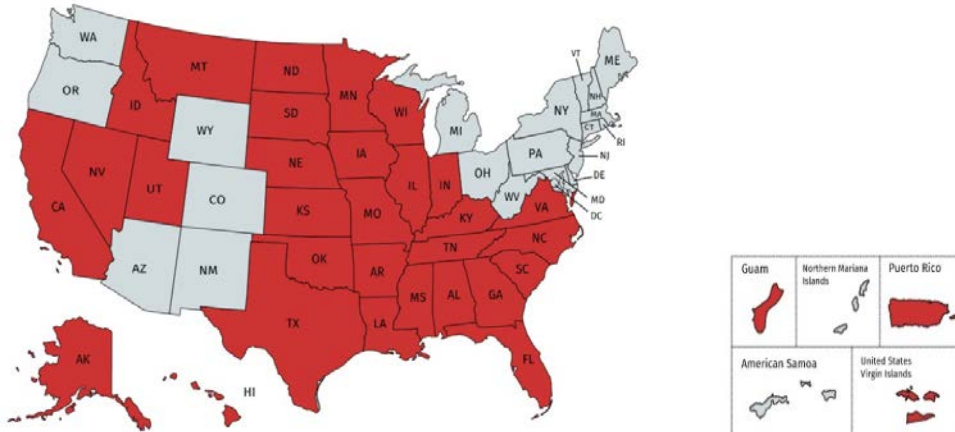
COVID Related Costs

As we reported last week, the “We Care” differential of \$2\hour for all employees (except Senior Management) for hours worked on site was eliminated at the end of July. This differential was put in place when NYS was an epicenter of the pandemic, and when many businesses were closed, potentially resulting in families experiencing cash flow issues. As the prevalence of positive COVID cases in NYS decreased dramatically and businesses reopened, we eliminated this differential to conserve funding for other current COVID related expenses and potential future expenses as we move into the fall and winter.

We have utilized some of this funding to support a new, targeted differential authorized by our Board to recognize those employees who are working on a unit with COVID positive residents. This differential will also 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.

NYS Quarantine Travel Restrictions

The list has been revised again as of 9/1/2020 (changes in italics), the advisory applies to anyone traveling from Alabama, *Alaska*, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, *Montana*, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin, and *three* territories – Guam, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. No states were removed this week.



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.



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

Sincerely,

Linda Parke,
Director of Human Resources