

July 30, 2021



To All Families of our Skilled Nursing and Adult Care Residents,

**PLEASE READ THE ENTIRE NEWSLETTER FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON COVID. THIS IS THE PRIMARY MEANS OF COMMUNICATION ON THIS TOPIC.**

**“WELCOME” TO OUR NEW FAMILY CONTACTS**

We are required to notify all residents, families and staff of a facility whenever we have a positive COVID test result for any staff member or resident. Two points of contact are required.

To help us meet these requirements, we have utilized a broadcast tool (School Messenger) to send emails and automated phone calls to up to two email addresses and two phone numbers per resident or resident contact, which is usually the first Health Care Proxy. The system then broadcasts to all the contact phone numbers and emails in this database. We also use this system to send out this update letter to our resident family contacts.

**You will also receive a broadcast when we have a staff member or resident test positive for COVID-19.** This includes an email *and a phone call*. We understand these phone calls can come at inconvenient times and would like to offer you the option to opt out of the phone calls for one or both of the numbers on file *so long as we have an email address on file to receive the alert*. This opt out will only effect the notification databases used by School Messenger. All contact info will remain on file in our Electronic Health Record, PointClickCare.

If you wish to opt out of alerts for one or both phone numbers we have file, please email me at [pm@goodshepherdcommunities.org](mailto:pm@goodshepherdcommunities.org) with the specifics. Please note it will take time to make the changes to the databases, so dependent on volume, there may be a delay from the time you make the request and the time the database revisions are completed. Thank you in advance for your patience.

**Given the reduced frequency of positive tests results, we will be changing the frequency of these letters to monthly unless something occurs which requires an immediate update, such as a positive test or significant change in policy. Letters will be issued the last week of each month.**

**TESTING**

Each week we will provide you with updated information on COVID-testing at all of our campuses.

***Staff Testing 7/1/21-7/30/21***

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

*GSFH*: No new positive test results

*Chase* :

- 7/24/21: One of our employees in the recreation department tested positive for COVID19. The employee will self-isolate for 14 days. No staff were considered to be a close contact. Two residents were considered to be a close contact.

*GSVE:*

- 7/27/21: An employee in the Assisted Living Residence tested positive for COVID-19. The staff member is symptomatic and will self-isolate for 14 days. Contact tracing is complete and no staff or residents were identified as close contacts.

**Resident Testing 7/1/21-7/30/21**

*GSFH:* No new positive test results

*Chase:* No new positive test results.

*GSVE:* 7/1/19.

- A resident in the Assisted Living Unit tested positive for COVID-19. The resident remains hospitalized for a non-COVID related medical condition. The resident had previously tested positive for COVID-19 but was beyond the 90 days so this was considered a new case. The resident is also fully vaccinated. Contact tracing is complete; there are no staff or residents considered close contacts.

**COVID related Deaths 7/1/21-7/30/21**

*GSFH:* We are happy to report there were no COVID related resident deaths at GSFH.

*Chase:* We are happy to report there were no COVID related resident deaths at Chase.

*GSVE:* We are happy to report there were no COVID related resident deaths at GSVE.

**Current Vaccination Statistics:** Please note these figures are very fluid as we have new admissions, discharges, new hires, terminated employees, etc. We are holding regular vaccine clinics to allow new residents and staff to get vaccinated, as well as people who may have changed their minds since previous clinics.

**Vaccination Status as of 7/29/21**

	SNF Residents	ACF Residents	SNF Employees	ACF Employees	IL Employees
GSFH	100% on Rehab and Cameo Court	100%	72%	66%	n/a
GSVE	100%	100%	87%	63%	87%
Chase	95%	n/a	66% with 3% pending	n/a	n/a

While this is not mandatory for our residents or staff, we are hoping all of our eligible residents and staff will elect to be vaccinated unless there are contraindications. **Help us reach herd immunity!!**

**Delta Variant**

**5 Things to Know About the Delta Variant (adopted from Yale Medicine Website)**

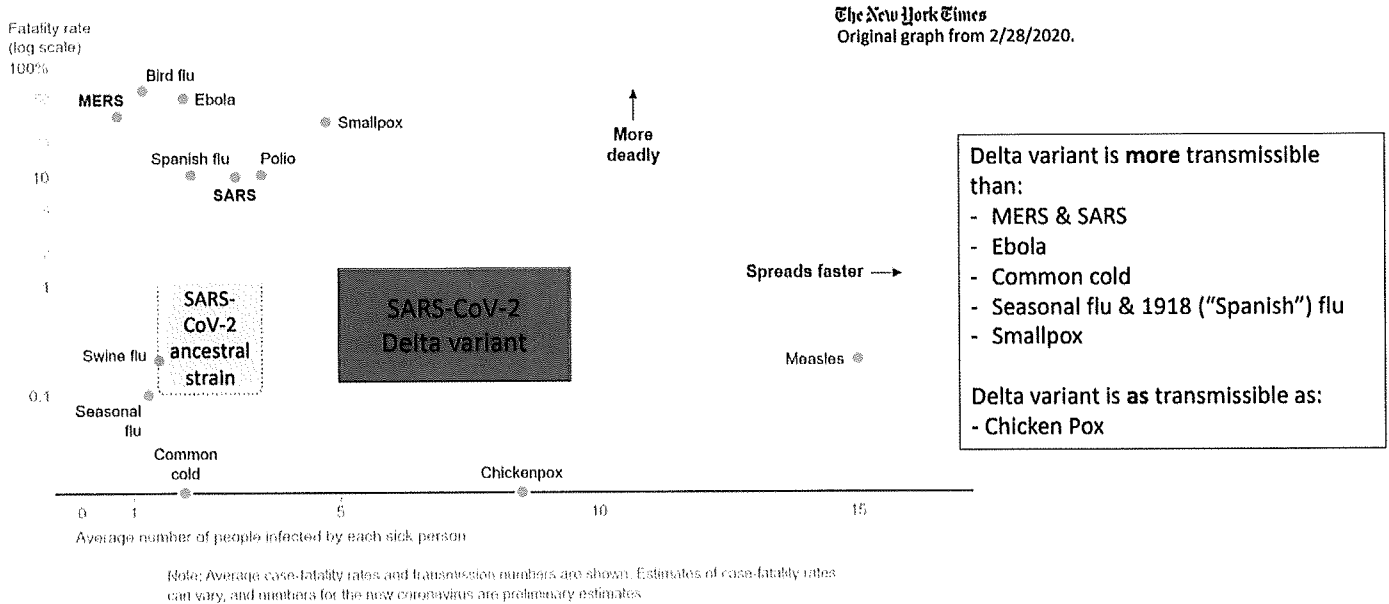
1. Delta is more contagious than the other virus strains.

2. Unvaccinated people are at risk.
3. Delta could lead to 'hyperlocal outbreaks.' This means the vaccination rate where you live and in adjacent areas matters.
4. There is still more to learn about Delta.
5. Vaccination is the best protection against Delta.

**Some vaccinated people are still carrying big loads of the delta variant**

The CDC has announced that they have research indicating vaccinated people infected with delta are carrying high viral loads (1000 times that of the original strain)- a new phenomenon, compared with how the original version of the virus behaved. **This means the Delta variant is as contagious as Chicken Pox.**

## Transmission of Delta variant vs. ancestral strain and other infectious diseases



The New York Times  
Original graph from 2/28/2020.

With the original alpha variant, infections among vaccinated individuals is exceedingly rare, and vaccinated people didn't have big viral loads, and almost never transmitted the virus to unvaccinated people.

**But with the higher viral loads involved with the Delta variant even in vaccinated people, there is a heightened risk that millions of unvaccinated people will contract the virus from a vaccinated person and get more seriously ill.**

### Positivity Rates and COVID Zones as of 7/20/21

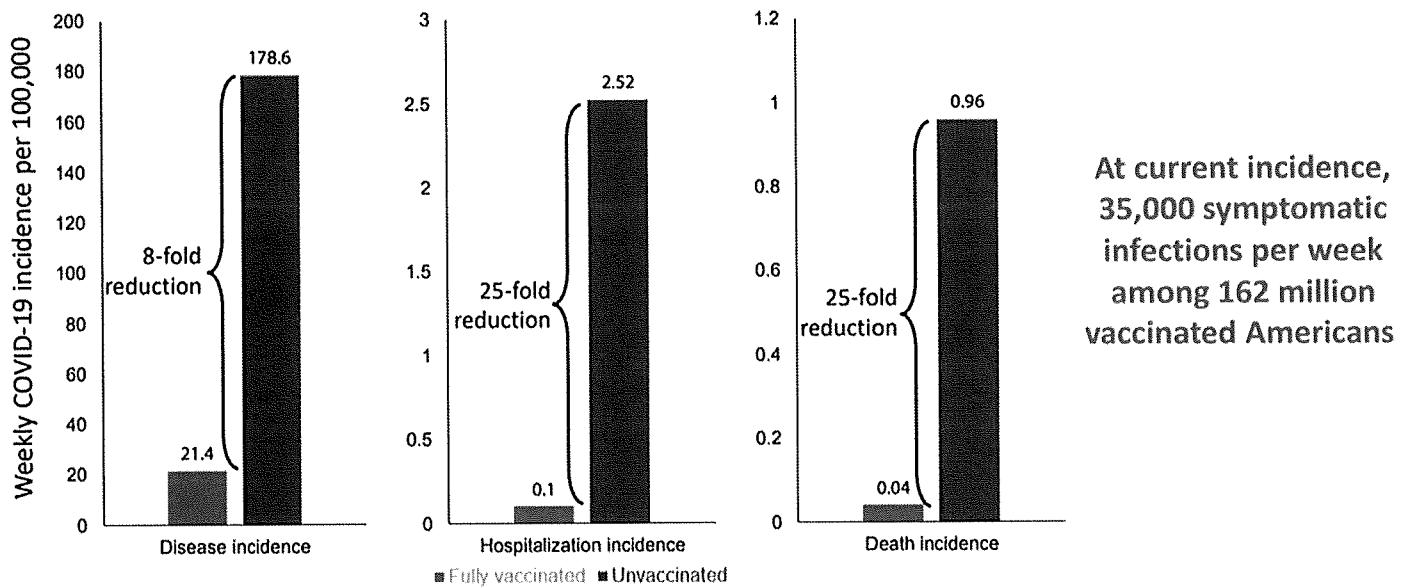
CMS positivity rates by county is the metric used for visitation per NYS. Note CMS stats lag one week behind.

County	CMS County Rate	CMS Color Code
Broome County	1.3%	Green
Chenango County	0.3%	Green

## Compelling Reasons to Get Vaccinated:

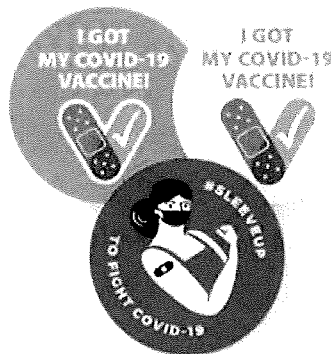
1. Effective against serious illness, hospitalizations and death even against the new very contagious Delta variant.

### Greater risk of disease, hospitalization and death among unvaccinated vs. vaccinated people: National estimates



Data from COVID Tracker as of July 24, 2021. Average incidence: 100 cases per 100,000 persons per week. Vaccine effectiveness against symptomatic illness: 78% (Fernald et al. NEJM 2021), where risk is (1 - VE) or 17%. Vaccine effectiveness: hospitalization (or death) = 96% (Moore et al. PHE preprint) where risk is (1 - VE) or 4%. Rate in unvaccinated = (community rates) / (fully vaccinated coverage) = (1.7) / (4%) = 42.5. Rate in fully vaccinated = (1.7) \* (4%) = 0.068. Fully vaccinated coverage assumptions were from COVID Data Tracker as of July 24, 2021 (68% for US).

2. Get the NYS Excelsior pass- increased access to NYS venues and businesses.
3. In non-health care settings, no need to wear a mask or socially distance in public areas.



**FAQs:** We receive multiple individual emails or calls with questions. Rather than respond individually to multiple individuals asking the same or similar questions, we have added a FAQs section each week. Please note we have an

obligation to maintain the privacy of the health information of our employees and cannot provide information which could potentially identify them.

*Q: Which of our facilities and level of care currently allow visitors?*

**A: Chase is open for visitation.**

**At GSFH, all levels of care are open for visitation.**

**At GSVE, all levels of care are open for visitation.**

Because the hours available and locations vary by facility and level of care, we are issuing facility\level of care specific broadcasts to the impacted families with more specific information.

We continue to offer virtual visits, and can arrange for window visits. Both should be scheduled through the Therapeutic Recreation department.

### **Donations**

- No new donations to report.

Please remember to contact the facility's Administrator prior to making a non-monetary donation so they are aware and they can review any restrictions.



Please visit our website for ongoing coverage of our response to COVID.

Thank you all for your patience during this difficult time. If you are feeling unusually high levels of stress, there are a number of resources available.

- Office of Mental Health Emotional Support Helpline: 1-844-863-9314 \*  
The Emotional Support Helpline provides free and confidential support, helping callers experiencing increased anxiety due to the coronavirus emergency. The Helpline is staffed by volunteers, including mental health professionals, who have received training in crisis counseling.
- CDC Resources : <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/managing-stress-anxiety.html>

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