



August 20, 2020



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

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	6	0	1	5	0	0	0	0
GSVE	11	0	1*	10	0	0	0	0
			* last worked 3/29					
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	21	0	0	21	1	0	0	1
GSVE	22	0	0	22	0	0	0	0
Tested as of 8/12/20					8/13/20-8/19/20			
Please note some testing was purely precautionary as the individual was asymptomatic. Ex: fall led to ER visit and tested.								

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.

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

We continue to do the testing of our staffs as required by NYS Executive Order. Per Executive Order, each employee is tested *once per week*. This Executive Order was extended through September 4, 2020. The test is a simple nasal swab, and results usually arrive within 48 hours.

Please note testing is different than screening. Screening staff involves staff answering a series of questions about travel, work and symptoms, and having their temperature taken at the start of their shifts and every 12 hours thereafter. Testing is a laboratory test to find out if a person has coronavirus (COVID-19).

Results of Mass Testing 8/13-8/19 (for employees who passed the screening process)

This requirement to self-quarantine for 14 days includes not only visitors, but also New York State residents returning from the affected states. *Please keep this in mind as you plan any vacations while the order is in effect.*

All out-of-state travelers from designated states must complete a form upon entering New York. Travelers who leave the airport without completing the form will be subject to a \$2,000 fine and may be brought to a hearing and ordered to complete mandatory quarantine. Travelers coming to New York from designated states through other means of transport, including trains and cars, must fill out the form online.

The quarantine requirements do not apply to any individual passing through designated states for a limited duration (i.e., less than 24 hours) through the course of travel (e.g., layovers, rest areas)

IL Fitness Centers

NYS announced that on August 24th, gyms can reopen at 33% capacity with mandatory mask wearing and other strict infection control measures. For example, HVAC systems must meet guidelines, sign-in forms to track who is entering and leaving will be required, regular disinfection of all equipment between users is required, as is COVID-19 screening, which may include temperature checks. We are working at GSVE and GSFH to meet all the new requirements, and should be announcing re-opening dates soon.

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: The news is reporting NYS has allowed visits to resume in nursing homes and adult care facilities. When will our facilities allow visitors?

A: We will continue to address this question each week as we believe this addresses one of the most critical challenges facing our facilities, our resident and their family members.

We do have some good news! GSVE ALR is close to meeting the re-opening criteria, and we are putting plans in place for this assuming no one tests positive prior to this. Screening will be required for all visitors, and all visits must be by appointment. Face masks and social distancing must be observed. Visits are limited in duration because we want to be sure everyone has an opportunity to see their loved ones as soon as possible. Visits will take place outside, and visitors will enter from the outside. We will plan to send a separate email GSVE ALR residents and family members when NYS authorizes the re-opening with more facility/level of care specific details.



We look forward to re-opening all our levels of care at all our campuses as soon as we are able. Please continue to advocate for NYS to change the overly burdensome requirement that a facility must not have had a single COVID positive test result for 28 days to re-open.

Donations

Thank you to the following individuals or groups for their generous donations of Personal Protective Equipment or other support to our staff and residents:

- Marlene Wilklow brought Cider Mill donuts to the Independent Living staff at Good Shepherd Village to thank them for all they do to keep everyone safe and healthy.
- The family of Joan Johnson donated food for the GSVE ALR floor staff.
- The Family of Sarah Owens made a monetary donation as a thank you for her care on Parlor City at GSFH. Therapeutic Rec will be purchasing some type of single serve, approved food item for the staff of Parlor City with the money.

We are very grateful for all the support and donations, but please remember to contact the facility's Administrator prior to making a 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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