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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	9	0	0	9	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	7	0	0	7	0	0	0	0
GSFH	16	0	0	16	3	3	0	0
GSVE	12	0	0	12	0	0	0	0
Tested as of 6/10/20					6/11/20-6/17/20			
Please note some testing was purely precautionary as the individual was asymptomatic. Ex: fall led to ER visit and tested.								

We 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 and resident baseline testing discussed below, 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 a new Executive Order issued

June 10, 202, each employee will now be tested *once per week*. 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 (for employees who passed the screening process)

	Tested	Positive	Negative	Inconclusive or Indeterminate
GSFH	159	1	156	2
GSVE	140	0	139	1
Chase	106	0	104	2

In the last round of testing, we had one asymptomatic employee test positive at GSFH on the Rehab Unit. The employee is self-isolating for 14 days.

Per Department of Health recommendations for contact tracing, we interviewed the staff member extensively to identify anyone that they were potentially in close contact with during the 48 hours prior to being tested. Close contact is defined as contact within 6 feet for a period of at least 10 minutes. No other staff members were in close contact with the staff member who tested positive. Two residents who were in close contact are being closely monitored and are on droplet precautions for 14 days as a further safeguard. Neither is currently showing any symptoms of COVID. Their families have been notified. The unit has also been closed.

GSFH Administration and the GSFH nursing department are monitoring the situation in collaboration with both the NYS DOH and local Department of Health and will follow all recommendations. At this point, Department of Health has not indicated further wide-spread testing is required in response to this news. Please remember we recently completed a round of baseline testing for all of our residents, and we test staff on a weekly basis.

Please note we are testing over 500 staff members each week between all of our campuses. With this type of wide-spread testing, it is highly probable that we will have some additional positive results. We will continue to follow appropriate infection control protocols to protect our residents and staff, and will continue to conduct the weekly staff testing, and will alert you to any positive results.

Please note there are no residents that are exhibiting symptoms of illness (COVID-19) at this time.

Phase 3 NYS Forward Re-Opening

IL Gatherings in Public Outdoor Settings REVISED

Broome County is now in Phase 3. This will allow indoor dining as broadly outlined in last week's letter. In addition, on June 15th, a new Executive Order increased the limit for non-essential gatherings from 10 to 25, as long as social distancing protocols and cleaning and disinfection protocols as established by the Department of Health are adhered to.

Please note this does not apply to Health Care, which remains under strict restrictions.

Independent Living Dining

We will be re-opening our Independent Living Dining areas Monday, June 22nd. Our re-opening plans are based on the NYS guidance on public restaurants. Campus-specific plans have been communicated to our IL residents, and are attached for your reference.

GSVE IL Pool Re-opening

The pool will be re-opening for group instruction on Monday, June 22nd. Details will be provided in a separate communication.

Beauty Salon

NYS authorized Beauty Salons to re-open as part of Phase 2. However, as previously discussed, NYS phases for re-opening do not apply to Health Care. At GSFH, the salon is located in a central area, and we do not feel we can open under current NYS DOH guidelines. The same would hold true for GSVE HC.

Nick's has reopened their satellite location at the Village Center as of this Tuesday. Residents with appointments should enter for now from the ramp entry at the back of the Village Center.

Plexiglas Barriers

To protect our residents, staff and future visitors, we have installed or will install Plexiglas barriers in many locations, such as the GSFH Café, GSVE Marketplace, and Receptionist desks.

Extra...Extra...Read all about it!

On Friday, July 3rd there will be an insert in the Binghamton Press honoring all of our staff. Michael J. Keenen, President/CEO, has written an article titled "Heroes of the Pandemic." In the article he recognizes the efforts of all the employees of Good Shepherd Communities, Good Shepherd Fairview Home, Good Shepherd Village at Endwell, and Chase Memorial Nursing Home for their continued dedication and commitment from the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Inside the insert is a listing of all the employees' names and a description of the departments and some of the ways each department rose to the challenges posed by COVID-19.

Please join us in thanking our staff and celebrating their loyalty and caring for all of our residents.

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: When will Skilled Nursing and Adult Care open for visitations?

Governor Cuomo has not authorized re-opening for visitors as of yet, and has not provided any indication of a time line. In response to a news request for comment on re-opening nursing homes, the governor's office provided the following statement: "We're reviewing the data and looking for best practices when dealing with this vulnerable population." Good Shepherd is proactively building a plan for re-opening when the time comes, but we will have to wait for the NYS guidance on protocols and restrictions.

NYS did re-open hospitals and group homes to visitors this week, which we find encouraging.

Hospitals will be allowed to accept visitors at their discretion. Officials say the hospitals must follow state guidelines including: time limited visits, requiring visitors to wear PPE, and symptom and temperature checks for visitors.

Beginning Friday, group homes certified by the NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities may also begin visitations, but they must notify the state and follow the state guidelines. Visitors must wear masks and are also subject to symptom and temperature checks.

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:

- The Emhoff family donated bagels and cream cheese to the staff at Chase



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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