

June 4, 2020



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

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	6	0	0	6				
GSFH	6	0	1	5	0	0	0	0
GSVE	10	0	1*	9	1	0	0	1
			* 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	6	0	0	6				
GSFH	16	0	0	16	0	0	0	0
GSVE	10	0	0	10	1	0	0	1
					* precautionary post hospitalization			
Tested as of 5/27/20					5/28/20-6/3/20			
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 twice weekly testing and resident baseline testing discussed below, or staff testing done as part of any pre-op procedures.

NYS DOH Voluntary Testing for all Residents

This testing is for Skilled Nursing and Adult Care residents. Independent Living residents who feel they should be tested should follow up with their personal health care provider. This is baseline testing for all residents, not specifically ordered due to symptoms or exposure.

All of our facilities have completed the process. Chase and GSFH have received all of their results, and we are happy to announce no residents at either facility has tested positive. GSVE completed their testing 5/29/20 and has begun to receive their results. So far, the news at GSVE is also all good. If we have any residents test positive for COVID, we will notify those directly impacted first, then do the necessary mass notifications.

NYS DOH Mandatory Testing for all Staff

We continue to do the testing of our staffs as required by NYS Executive Order. Each employee is tested two times 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	200	0	199	1
GSVE	144	2	141	0
Chase	119	0	119	0

We have had two asymptomatic staff members test positive for COVID-19 in the first round of mass testing, and another 2 last week tested positive at GSVE. At GSVE, one worked in Nursing and one in Maintenance. Both are in self-isolation for 14 days. Per Department of Health recommendations, we interviewed these people 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 (CDC recently revised this to 15 minutes but NYS is adhering to the more stringent 10 minutes). Those people deemed to have had close contact were notified and instructed to self-quarantine for 14 days. Self-quarantine is defined as self-monitoring for symptoms and staying at home, with the exception of reporting to work. Those considered in close contact were all staff members. No resident was identified as having close contact with this individual during the look-back period.

As previously stated, our team is monitoring the situation in collaboration with both the NYS Department of Health and our local health department and will follow all their recommendations.

Please remember we are testing over 500 staff members twice per 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 twice 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.

Health Care Window Visits

Many of you have taken advantage of window visits to have a more personal contact with your loved ones. However, we must ask that you schedule these visits through Therapeutic Recreation so we can ensure that proper social distancing can occur and that all Infection Control protocols are followed.

FAQs: We received multiple individual emails or calls with questions. Rather than respond individually to multiple individuals asking the same or similar questions, we will be add 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 the Beauty Salons and Fitness\Wellness Centers re-open on site?

A: NYS has 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.

The salon operated by Nick's Hair Design for our IL residents in the lower level of the Village Center will be re-opening soon, hopefully next week. But residents should be prepared for a very different experience. Under NYS guidelines, staff and clients must wear face masks, and staff will additionally wear face shields. All visits will require an appointment. Social distancing will require six feet between clients, and you must wait outside until your appointment time. When you enter the salon, your temperature will be taken. No food or magazines will be allowed in the salon, and clients are not permitted to sit under a dryer, although blow drying will be allowed. And the beauticians are required to have bi-weekly COVID testing.

As for the fitness/wellness centers, including the GSVE pool, re-opening cannot occur until we enter Phase 4 under NYS guidelines, and we are currently only part way through Phase 2.

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 family of Minnie Karge donated box lunches for staff on GSFH Arlington Center.
- The family of GSFH AL resident Sarah Owens provided baskets of individually wrapped snacks to all 3 shifts on Parlor City earlier in the pandemic, and this past week provided individual ice cream treats to all 3 shifts on Parlor City.
- The Vermeulen family donated salad, ziti and meatballs from Frankie's to Chase staff.



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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