



To All Independent Living 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	8**	0	0	8**	1	0	0	1
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	6	0	0	6	1	0	0	1
GSFH	16	0	0	16	0	0	0	0
GSVE	11	0	0	11	1	0	0	1
					* precautionary post hospitalization			
Tested as of 6/3/20					6/4/20-6/10/20			
** last week, new suspected case info for Chase was omitted from the report; 2 staff members were tested: both negative								
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 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.

Update: We previously reported some test results at GSVE were still pending. As of now, GSVE has received all of their test results, and all are negative.

### 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 6/10/20, the 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	174	1	172	1
GSVE	156	0	155	1
Chase	127	1	126	0

In the last round of testing, we had one asymptomatic employee test positive at GSFH, and one at Chase. The GSFH employee works in the staff only office area, and the Chase employee is in the nursing department. 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. No resident was identified as having close contact with this individual during the look-back period at GSFH. At Chase, two residents were identified as having close contact with the individual who tested positive, and they have been placed on droplet precautions and are being closely monitored. Their families have been notified.

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 each week between all of our campuses. With this type of widespread 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.***

### **Masks and Social Distancing**

Please remember the critical importance of social distancing and mask wearing when you are in public areas. We have implemented some engineering controls to encourage social distancing. For example, at GSFH, we have removed all but one chair per table outside the café; but we rely on you to protect yourself, other residents, and staff by maintaining six feet of distance and always wearing your mask outside of your room, apartment or cottage unless you are outside. Even if you are outside, if you are going to be closer than six feet, please wear your mask.

### **IL Gatherings in Public Outdoor Settings**

As NYS continues to re-open and Broome County enters new phases of this re-opening, we are revisiting our policy on IL gatherings in public outdoor spaces at each facility.

GSVE: We are opening the Pavilion for resident use effective today under Phase 2. To facilitate this and to encourage proper infection control guidelines, we will require all residents and their guests who wish to use the pavilion area at GSVE to:

- Call receptionist to schedule a time to use the pavilion.
- Limit the number of people to 10 or less.
- While NYS Phase 2 does not require this specifically, we continue to encourage you to maintain social distancing and wear masks when with members outside your household.

- Wipe down tables and chairs after use with disinfectant provided by GSVE at location.
- Remove all garbage.

GSFH: Currently, GSFH does not have an appropriate space to allow for group gatherings outside. Residents may continue to have small gatherings under the portico in front of the main lobby, and on balconies. Again, we encourage you to maintain social distancing and wear masks when with members outside your household.

### **Phase 3 NYS Forward Re-Opening**

We anticipate Broome County entering Phase 3 soon, but as of this communication, no official date has been announced. Phase 3 in Broome County will allow indoor dining, but with a series of restrictions, including:

- Indoor capacity limited to no more than 50% of maximum occupancy.
- No parties of more than 10 are permitted.
- All indoor and outdoor tables with seating for customers separated by a minimum of six feet in all directions.
- When social distancing is not feasible between tables, physical barriers enacted between tables that are at least five feet high and cannot block exits.
- Patrons must wear face coverings except while seated.
- Signs that show six-foot spacing in any lines for customers waiting to order, pick-up food, be seated or use the restroom.

We are working with our Dietary teams to plan our re-opening strategies for Independent Living Dining at both campuses. Please note that our re-opening date may not correspond directly with the date Broome County enters Phase 3. It is important to us to make sure we have all our safe guards in place prior to re-opening. We hope to offer more detailed information on our IL Dining re-opening 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: When will the Beauty Salons and Fitness/Wellness Centers re-open on site? Update to last week's Answer.*

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.

One change to last week's guidance on the salon operated by Nick's at GSVE in the Village Center is that staff may wear a face shield *or goggles*. We are working with Nick's staff on a re-opening plan that incorporates employee testing. We tentatively anticipate re-opening next Tuesday. Residents with appointments should enter for now from the ramp entry at the back of the Village Center.

For the GSVE Fitness Center and GSVE pool, because they are in Independent Living, NYS Forward Re-Opening guidelines apply. This mean re-opening cannot occur until we enter Phase 4 under NYS guidelines, and we are hopefully near the end of Phase 2.

For the GSFH Wellness Center, because of its location and proximity to the SNF and ACF, we do not anticipate this opening until we see a phased re-opening of nursing homes and adult care facilities.

*Q: Can windows be open during HC window visits?*

No, we encourage those visiting to bring their phone and call their family member. And remember window visits should be planned in advance with the facility's Therapeutic Recreation staff.

*Q: Are the HC residents going to be tested again?*

At this time, there is no directive from NYS to repeat residents testing. Individual residents will be tested if indicated based on symptoms.

*Q: Can Health Care (SNF and ACF\ALR) residents go to outside appointments that are not considered essential? Example; Church, barber, salons, family house visits?*

We strongly discourage all non-essential appointments, but we do not prohibit them. However, we will not provide transportation to any non-essential appointment, and HC residents who opt to attend non-essential appointments will be required to self-quarantine in their room for 14 days.

*Q: What are the protocols for Health Care residents returning from essential appointments?*

Essential medical appointments are structured and conducted under specific infection control guidelines and as such, we do not require self-quarantine, though we do ask for strict adherence to mask use and social distancing upon return.

The only exception to this is for residents who have been to the Emergency Room. Because these visits are usually prolonged and can be under somewhat chaotic circumstances, we do require a 14-day room quarantine upon return.

## **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 Bob Cummings donated food for the GSVE SNF staff
- Rose O'Connell, SNF resident, donated food for the GSVE SNF staff
- The Children of Grace Groves made a generous monetary donation to purchase food for the staff on Cameo Court



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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