



July 30, 2020



To All Independent Living and Adult Care Residents:

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

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	9	0	0	9	1	1	0	0
GSFH	20	0	0	20	0	0	0	0
GSVE	16	0	0	16	4	0	0	4
Tested as of 7/22/20					7/23/20-7/29/20			
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*. 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)

<b>Mass Employee Testing</b>				
	Tested	Positive	Negative	Inconclusive or Indeterminate
GSFH	196	2	194	0
GSVE	168	1	167	0
Chase	113	0	108	5

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

*GSFH*

- Dietary Employee: Asymptomatic. Self-isolation for 14 days. No close contact with any residents or other staff.
- Office Staff: Asymptomatic. Self-isolation for 14 days. No close contact with any residents or other staff.

*GSVE*

- Assisted Living Residence employee: Asymptomatic. Self-isolation for 14 days. No other staff members were in close contact with this staff member. Four residents were in close contact and have been placed on droplet precautions. The unit is under quarantine which means we alert any potential admissions of the situation in case they want to reconsider, and our current residents are restricted to the unit.

*Chase*

- No new positive results

Our staff at all of our campuses are monitoring these situations in collaboration with both the NYS DOH and local Department of Health and will follow all recommendations.

**Mass Resident Testing Post-Exposure to Positive Staff Member Prior Reporting Period Update**

Previously we reported 12 pending results at GSFH, and 1 inconclusive at Chase. All 12 pending at GSFH have come back negative, and the 1 inconclusive at Chase was retested and is negative.

**NYS Quarantine Travel Restrictions- UPDATE**

The list has been expanded again (newly added states and territories in italics), the advisory applies to anyone traveling from Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, *Illinois*, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, *Kentucky*, Louisiana, Maryland, *Minnesota*, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and two territories - *Puerto Rico, and Washington D.C.*

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 area stops, etc.).

## **Air Purification Systems**

All our campuses have installed or have ordered air purification systems that use photohydroionization technology. This is designed to reduce odors, air pollutants, VOC (chemical odors), smoke, mold, bacteria and viruses.

Why Photohydroionization? Germicidal UV light rays have been used for decades by the medical industry as a method to destroy micro-organisms (germs, viruses, bacteria). UV light is dependable and can be installed in HVAC systems. Germicidal UV light is effective in reducing only the airborne micro-organisms that pass directly through the light rays. However, germicidal UV light has little to no effect on gases, vapors or odors. Photohydroionization Advanced Oxidation, which is an active system, on the other hand, is very effective on gases, vapors and odors as well.

Tests have shown this technology results in a 99% reductions of airborne bacteria, mold, odors and virus, including E-coli, Staph, H1N1, Avian flu, Norwalk and MRSA. While there are not specific testing results for COVID as of yet, we felt we wanted to add this additional layer of protection. The systems are in high demand, so there are some delays in delivery.

**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. Unfortunately, there has been no changes since last week on this issue.

At this time, none of our facilities are in a position to re-open for visits, including outside visits, due primarily to the criteria pertaining to 28 days COVID-free. This criteria is incredibly burdensome on LTC facilities as it pertains to both residents and staff. While we are very fortunate in that none of our facilities has had a resident test positive for COVID, they have all experienced employees who tested positive but who were asymptomatic.

As we stated previously, we do not agree with this advisory as it is currently written and are advocating against it. And we encourage you to advocate personally on this issue by reaching out to your elected state and local officials. Together we all need to send the message that NYS needs to strike a balance between protecting our residents from COVID, and allowing vital emotional and psychosocial **in-person safe** interactions with loved ones.

## **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:

- No new donations were received this past week.

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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