



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.

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	19	0	0	19	1	0	0	1
GSVE	12	0	0	12	0	0	0	0
Tested as of 6/17/20					6/18/20-6/24/20			
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 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)

	Tested	Positive	Negative	Inconclusive or Indeterminate
GSFH	152	1 (per DOH- not a true positive and non-reportable)	150	1
GSVE	133	1	132	0
Chase	125	0	122	3

In the last round of testing, we had one asymptomatic employee test positive at GSVE who works in Independent Living. 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. Three IL residents were in close contact, although in a low risk environment. All have been contacted and given a directive from the Health Department that they must self-quarantine for 14 days. None are currently showing any symptoms of COVID.

GSVE Administration is 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, 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.*

### **Best Practices to Prevent COVID Exposure**

Local and State Health Departments are defining COVID exposure as any individual who had been in contact with a COVID confirmed individual within 6 feet AND for a prolonged period of time (10 minutes or greater). Please be aware that whenever possible a distance greater than six feet from other residents and other staff members should be maintained. With the practice of social distancing, we can greatly decrease the risk of exposing and potentially infecting our coworkers and residents.

### **Phase 4 NYS Forward Reopening**

Broome County will be entering Phase 4 this Friday June 26<sup>th</sup>. Please note this does not apply to Health Care, which remains under strict restrictions. In earlier announcements, Phase 4 was to have included malls, gyms and movie theaters. However, information from the Governor's office now indicates that this has been reconsidered and these businesses will not be allowed to reopen with Phase 4. Phase 4 does permit indoor religious gatherings at 33% of capacity, and allows low-risk indoor and outdoor arts and entertainment, film, and TV production and professional sports without fans. At this point, we do not anticipate any changes in operations at any of our campuses driven by the move to Phase 4.

### Independent Living Dining

We reopened our Independent Living Dining areas Monday 6/22 following NYS guidance on public restaurants. To our residents:

**“Welcome back!”**



## GSVE IL Pool Reopening

The pool reopened for group instruction on Monday June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

- All residents are required to maintain social distancing of 6ft from one another.
- Residents are required to sign in and out when entering and leaving the pool area.
- Residents are required to sanitize before and after entering the pool area.
- Our Fitness Trainer is responsible for cleaning and disinfecting the equipment in between classes. Pool equipment will not be shared unless it has been properly sanitized.
- There will be no more than 10 people in the pool area at one given time.
- Face coverings are not required in the pool or pool area.

## Beauty Salon

NYS authorized Beauty Salons to reopen as part of Phase 2. However, as previously discussed, NYS phases for reopening 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. Residents with appointments should enter for now from the ramp entry at the back of the Village Center.

## **Plexiglas Barriers**

We look a little different...to protect our residents, staff and future visitors, we continue to install Plexiglas barriers in many locations, such as the GSFH Café, Receptionist desks and GSVE Pub.



## **NYS Quarantine Travel Restrictions**

All travelers entering New York from a state with a positive test rate higher than 10 per 100,000 residents, or higher than a 10% test positivity rate, over a 7 day rolling average, will be required to quarantine for a period of 14 days consistent with Department of Health regulations for quarantine.

The criteria and the protocols will be coordinated with New Jersey and Connecticut Commissioners of Health, in order to ensure that the tristate area is protected from community transmission of COVID-19, while permitting free travel between and among the states.

Any violation of a quarantine or isolation order issued to an individual pursuant to the Commissioner of the Department of Health's travel advisory by a local department of health or state department of health may be enforced, and non-compliance may additionally be deemed a violation subject to a civil penalty of up to \$10,000.

Currently, the advisory applies to Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Utah and Texas.

## LytBot- A New Highly Innovative Line of Defense and Attack against Pathogens

Each of our campuses has purchased and received a LytBot. This is a significant investment - over \$60,000 across our facilities over a three-year period, but we are committed to exploring innovative ways to protect our staff and residents. This is a robot that uses pulsed broad-wavelength with Ultraviolet C (UVC) Light which can eliminate pathogens in seconds. The robot runs ultra-fast cycles quickly and reliably targeting surface based pathogen load reducing the risk of infection spread. A single resident room, including the bathroom, can be disinfected in 15 minutes.



Targeted Disinfection: 80% or more of pathogen load in a room resides on ‘high touch’ surfaces. LytBot’s engineered reflector system amplifies energy levels directed at these surfaces – meaning more energy and more efficacy.

Pulsed UVC uses two distinct mechanisms to kill pathogens: 254 nm Germicidal UV-C light and Micro-organism disintegration.

- Maxpulse: High frequency bulb flash rate delivers disinfection energy in to the environment quickly and effectively, rapidly destroying vegetative and spore forming pathogens.
- Micro-organism disintegration: This is caused by using all bands of light from 100 nm to 1000 nm. These bands of light are made up of billions of high energy photons of light. The high energy photons of light blast pathogen cells and are absorbed. As high energy photons are absorbed by the pathogen, heat rises and the cell starts to expand. Eventually the heat causes the cell to expand so much that the micro-organism explodes.

Solaris, the manufacturer, will be training key employees at each facility on how to use these new hi-tech systems.

**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 (updated)?*

A. We continue to tentatively plan for visitation, but are awaiting NYS guidance. NYS Department of Health issued the following statement: *“Since the start of this pandemic, there isn’t a single decision that we have taken lightly, and certainly not one that involves one of our most vulnerable populations. Just as with the phased reopening of New York’s economy, there needs to be a smart, methodical, and data-driven approach to reopening nursing homes to visitation. The Department’s guidance on reopening nursing homes to visitation is being finalized, but until it is issued, nursing homes must follow existing guidance restricting visitors, except for imminent end-of-life situations — simply put, these rules are in place to protect lives and will only be changed when we can do so safely.”*

NYS did reopen hospitals and group homes to visitors last week, and we are looking to those guidelines in addition to CMS guidance as we develop our plans. We are as anxious as our residents and staff to allow visitors, as we know only too well the toll it takes on people to be apart from their loved ones, but we need to be sure we are following all regulations to keep everyone safe.

## 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 have been received.



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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