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July 2, 2020

To All Staff,

This is week thirteen of our employee COVID-19 update.

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	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	20	0	0	20	0	0	0	0
GSVE	12	0	0	12	2	0	0	2

Tested as of 6/24/20

6/25/20-7/1/20

Please note some testing was purely precautionary as the individual was asymptomatic. Ex: fall led to ER visit and tested.

NYS DOH Mandatory Testing for all Staff (Reminder)

Per the DOH guidelines for mandatory testing, the week runs from Wednesday-Tuesday. With that said, we are now in the week of July 1 -7, a new week will start on July 8, which will run to July 8-14. When scheduling or planning your appointment to be tested, please keep the week dates in mind in order to be in compliance with the Executive Order. This Executive Order is set to expire on July 9, but everything is indicating that the employee once a week testing will continue until further notice.

The testing times for each campus will be as follows:

GSFH

Tuesday 2-4pm
 Wednesday 7-9am
 Thursday 2-4pm
 Friday 7-9am

GSVE

Monday 2-4pm
 Tuesday 2-4pm
 Wednesday 2-4pm
 Friday 2-4pm

Chase

Monday 5am-5pm
 Tuesday 5am-5pm
 Wednesday 5am-5pm

There will be no out of pocket cost to you for this required testing. NYS has deemed it ‘medically necessary’ and is urging insurance companies to absorb this cost. Insurance companies are challenging this, but we have noted some of our employees have received notice that our insurance companies are covering this expense so far. Regardless of the outcome of the debate between NYS and the insurance companies, you are not responsible for any portion of the cost of the weekly testing on-site. Therefore, if you receive a bill at home for this test, please let your HR department know immediately.

Results of Mass Testing (for employees who passed the screening process)

	Tested	Positive	Negative	Inconclusive or Indeterminate
GSFH	175	0	175	0
GSVE	160	3	157	0
Chase	73	0 (but one 3 rd party contractor was tested independently and tested positive)	69	4

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

GSFH

- No positive results.

GSVE

- IL Dietary staff member: Asymptomatic. Self-isolation for 14 days. No close contact with any residents but 4 staff members were close contacts. They have been notified and will be self-quarantining for 14 days.
- Housekeeper: Single symptom that could be related to COVID but is also consistent with the employee’s history of allergies. Self-isolation for 14 days. No close contact with any residents but 1 staff member was a close contact. That person has been notified and will be self-quarantining for 14 days.
- Health Care Dietary: Asymptomatic. Self-isolation for 14 days. No close contact with any residents or other staff.

Chase

- Third Party Contractor: Asymptomatic. Self-isolation for 14 days. No residents were in close contact with the individual who tested positive, but we will closely monitor any residents who had casual contact for symptoms as a further precaution. One other non-resident was identified as having close contact. This person has been contacted and given a directive from the Health Department that they must self-quarantine. Please note this will not appear in Chase’s weekly mass testing results as the test was performed by a third party.

Our staffs at both campuses are monitoring these situations in collaboration with both the NYS DOH and local department of health and will follow all recommendations.

NYS Quarantine Travel Restrictions (update)

As mentioned in the last employee letter, on June 24th, Governor Cuomo issued an Executive Order requiring all individuals traveling from states with “significant community-wide spread” of COVID-19 to quarantine for a 14-day period from the time of last contact within the identified state. The quarantine requirement took effect June 25th. The Department of Health (DOH) has issued interim guidance, which appears to indicate that this requirement includes not only visitors, but also New York State residents returning from the affected states.

However, we have received guidance from LeadingAge NY that there are exceptions for essential workers, which are described below. The quarantine restrictions currently apply to anyone traveling from Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Utah. 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.).

Essential workers may be exempt from travel-related quarantine, but are subject to certain other requirements. Essential workers include nursing home, adult care facility (ACF), home care, hospice, and other health care and elder care workers.

For employees or contract staff returning from travel in high-spread states, the exemption from quarantine for “Long-Term” essential workers “fulfilling extended employment obligations” appears to apply. The following provisions apply to essential workers anticipating Long-Term stays after travel to affected states:

- Essential workers should seek diagnostic testing for COVID-19 as soon as possible upon arrival (within 24 hours) to ensure that they are not positive.
- Essential workers should monitor temperature and signs of symptoms, wear a face covering when in public, maintain social distancing, and clean and disinfect workspaces for a minimum of 14 days.
- Essential workers, to the extent possible, are required to avoid extended periods in public, contact with strangers, and large congregating settings for a period of, at least, seven days.

The travel-related quarantine guidance provides, as an example, that “for a nursing home worker, a negative COVID-19 test will be required before return to work.”

There is currently some uncertainty of how this would apply to an employee who traveled to one of these states for recreational purposes as opposed to for work or at the direction of their employer. We are reaching out to LeadingAgeNY and will provide an update when it becomes available.

Ineligible for Paid Sick Leave Scenario

New York employees will forgo their paid sick leave benefits from New York's COVID-19 paid sick leave law if they engage in non-essential travel to high risk states (listed above). High risk states are any state that has a positive test rate higher than 10 per 100,000 residents, or higher than a 10 percent test positivity rate over a seven-day rolling average.

This provision does not apply if the employee travels for work or at the employer's request. The provision included in [Executive Order 202.45](#) mirrors the law's existing provision that makes New Yorkers ineligible for

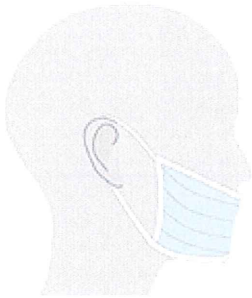
paid sick leave if they travel to any country designated as having a level two or three travel health notice from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Mask Etiquette 101: *Right and Wrong Way to Wear Mask*

Coronavirus

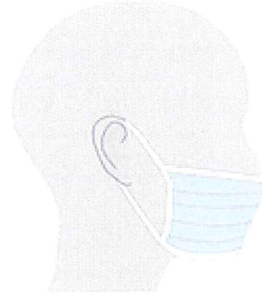
How To Properly Wear A Face Mask

Always wash hands before and after wearing your mask and clean reusable masks after use. Avoid touching the mask at all times and only use the bands or ties to put on and remove.



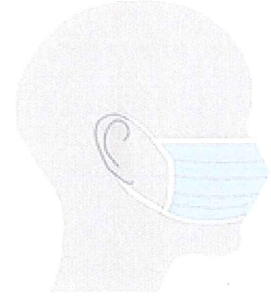
DON'T

wear your mask
below your nose



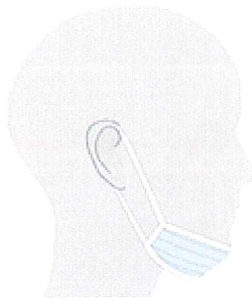
DON'T

wear your mask
low on your nose



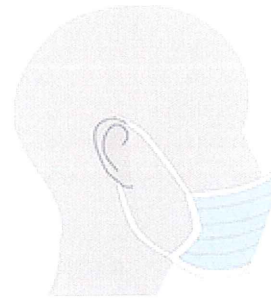
DON'T

leave your chin
exposed



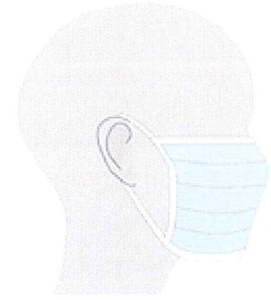
DON'T

wear your mask
under your chin or
temporarily remove
it in public



DON'T

let your mask hang
loosely with gaps
around your face



DO

wear your mask up
to the top of your nose
and under your chin;
snug and without gaps

Do Masks Have An Inside and an Outside?

A rumor circulated around Facebook in late March, saying you could choose which side of a disposable face mask you wore, depending on what kind of coverage you wanted. White side out was for when you were not sick and wanted to keep the virus out, while the blue side out was for keeping germs in while you were sick.

This rumor was incorrect. The blue side should always be worn out because it's waterproof, while the white should always be worn in because it's absorbent and will absorb a cough or sneeze.



Happy July 4th, and have a safe Holiday!

Sincerely,

Linda Parke,
Director of Human Resources