



August 6, 2020



To All Families of our Skilled Nursing 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	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	10	0	0	10	0	0	0	0
GSFH	20	0	0	20	1	0	0	1
GSVE	20	0	0	20	1	0	0	1
Tested as of 7/29/20					7/30/20-8/5/20			
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)

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

Mass Employee Testing				
	Tested	Positive	Negative	Inconclusive or Indeterminate
GSFH	184	1	183	0
GSVE	196	1	195	0
Chase	103	0	101	2

GSFH

- SNF Employee: Asymptomatic. Self-isolation for 14 days. Two staff members were in close contact, and will self-quarantine. One resident was in close contact and has been placed on droplet precautions.

GSVE

- Independent Living employee: Minor symptoms as this time. Self-isolation for 14 days. No residents or other staff members were in close contact with this staff member.
- UPDATE ON REPORT FROM LAST WEEK: The Assisted Living Residence employee has returned to work post self-isolation. No other staff members were in close contact with this staff member. The four residents who were in close contact were tested and are all negative. The unit will be off quarantine as of tomorrow.

Chase

- No new positive results

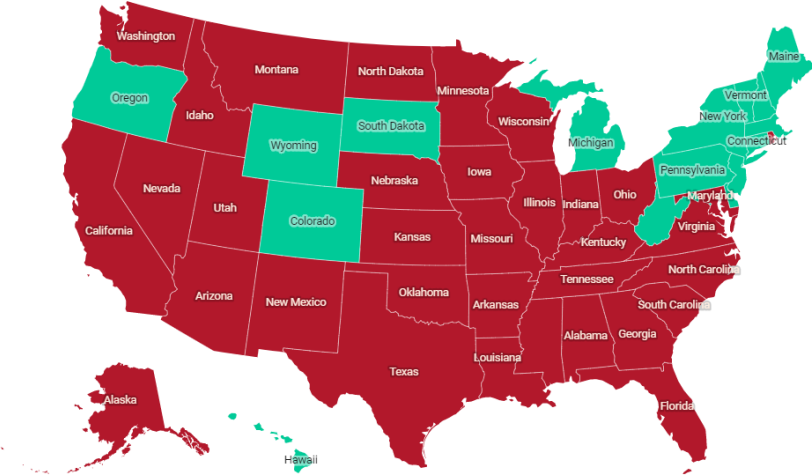
Our staff at all of our campuses are monitoring these situations in collaboration with both the NYS DOH and local Department of Health and will follow all recommendations.

NYS Quarantine Travel Restrictions- UPDATE

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

State Quarantine List

As of August 4, travelers to NJ/NY/CT from the red states (plus Puerto Rico) must self-quarantine for 14 days. Travelers from the green states are free to come and go.



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).

CMS\NYS Required Notifications When Staff or Resident Tests Positive to COVID

We are required to notify all residents, families and staff of a facility whenever we have a positive COVID test result for any staff member or resident. While CMS requires this notice be made by 5 pm of the next day, NYS is more stringent, requiring notice within 24 hours.

To help us meet these requirements, we utilize a broadcast tool (School Messenger) to send emails and automated phone calls to up to two email addresses and two phone numbers per resident or resident contact, which is usually the first Health Care Proxy.

We have been very fortunate in that none of our residents at any of our facilities has tested positive for COVID, but we have had employees test positive, triggering these notifications. The system then broadcasts to all the contact phone numbers and emails on file.

We understand these phone calls can come at inconvenient times and would like to offer residents and their family members the option to opt out of the phone calls for one or both of the numbers on file *so long as we have an email address on file to receive the alert*. This opt out will only effect the notification databases used by School Messenger. All contact info will remain on file in our Electronic Health Record, PointClickCare.

If you wish to opt out of alerts for one or both phone numbers we have file, please email me at pm@goodshepherdcommunities.org with the specifics. Please note it will take time to make the changes to the databases, so dependent on volume, there may be a delay from the time you make the request and the time the database revisions are completed. Thank you in advance for your patience.

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.

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, but we have appreciated the letters our resident have received from people in the community just reaching out to let them know they are supported and not forgotten during these difficult times.

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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