



## **Clive Behavioral Health Achieves National Certification as a Gluten-Free Food Service Facility**

**Clive, Iowa – March 26, 2024** – Clive Behavioral Health has achieved validation as a Gluten-Free Food Service program. The Clive Behavioral Health dietary team met the rigorous standards and expectations for safety required to achieve this honor.



The Gluten-Free Food Service (GFFS) audits and validates restaurants and food businesses that serve gluten-free food. The Gluten-Free Food Service validation program is a program of the Gluten Intolerance Group (GIG), a non-profit organization that has been serving the needs of the gluten-free community for over 45 years. GIG is on a mission to make life easier for everyone living gluten-free and Center for Change is proud to be a part of this program.

Clive Behavioral Health will be displaying the validated Gluten-Free Safe Spot logo throughout the facility to represent the independent verification of quality, integrity, and purity of businesses serving gluten-free food. Validation as a Gluten-Free Safe Spot establishes trust with gluten-free patrons in the ability of a facility to provide safe gluten-free food.

“High-quality food options play an essential role in our patients’ overall health and wellbeing. A Gluten-Free certification allows us to continue to expand our available choices and meet our patients’ nutritional needs,” said Kevin Pettit, CEO, Clive Behavioral Health. “We take great pride in this achievement, which represents our unwavering commitment to superior quality care.”

Since the program was established in 2009, GFFS has always held its food service establishments to the highest standards. Consumers recognize locations that have been validated as Gluten-Free Safe Spots serve gluten-free food that meets the nonprofit GFFS’s rigorous standards and expectations for safety. GFFS validates participating establishments, from restaurants to college dining, senior living, hospitals and more, by visiting locations in-person to ensure they follow best practices for gluten-free food safety and ensure high-quality staff training.

### **Facts about the Demand for Gluten-Free:**

- The demand for gluten-free options has surged in recent years, due in part to increased awareness and diagnosis of gluten-related disorders:

- Celiac disease affects approximately 1% of the global population, causing an autoimmune reaction to gluten ingestion.
- Non-Celiac Gluten Sensitivity (NCGS) impacts up to 13% of the population
- According to GIG's research in 2022:
  - 71% of gluten-free individuals are concerned about the safety of hospital food
  - 95% of gluten-free individuals feel safer at a GFFS Validated Safe Spot

"It's very exciting to award gluten-free validation to Clive Behavioral Health. The commitment shown by Clive Behavioral Health in achieving our certification reflects their dedication to catering to individuals with gluten-related disorders. This certification not only recognizes their efforts but also highlights the commitment to ensuring safe gluten-free food at a time/place when the gluten-free individuals need it the most," said Cynthia Kelly, CEO of the Gluten Intolerance Group.

### **About Clive Behavioral Health**

Opened in February 2021, Clive Behavioral Health is a stand-alone, 100-bed licensed inpatient acute care behavioral health center based in Clive, Iowa. Clive Behavioral Health provides compassionate care for individuals who struggle with a behavioral health disorder or co-occurring disorders. Clive Behavioral Health offers both inpatient and outpatient treatment and programming for children, adolescents, and adults. Patients receive customized treatment plans to meet their specific needs to promote better outcomes. Learn more: <https://clivebehavioral.com/>

### **About the Gluten Intolerance Group (GIG)**

The Gluten Intolerance Group (GIG) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit association funded by private donations, sponsorship opportunities and food safety programs. It relies on tax-deductible contributions to support its many innovative industry, service, social and awareness programs. GIG has been a highly respected leader in the gluten-free community since it was founded in 1974. In addition to more than 80 local support groups across the United States, GIG has increased its presence internationally to 58 countries. GIG empowers the gluten-free community through consumer support, advocacy and education. The [Gluten-Free Food Service](#) (GFFS) program is a proven model of established best practices for food service facilities offering gluten-free options. The [Gluten-Free Certification Organization](#) (GFCO), a program of GIG, is a leader in the verification of quality, integrity and purity of gluten-free products. GIG is committed to ongoing food safety research to assure customers and consumers the highest level of excellence in its gluten-free programs and services. For information, visit [www.gluten.org](http://www.gluten.org).

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