

Gurwin Jewish Nursing & Rehabilitation Center

Wednesday, April 29, 2020
5:30 PM

Dear Gurwin Family Members:

As you already know, we are required by the NYS Department of Health (DOH) to inform our family members when any of our residents newly test positive for COVID-19. Yesterday, we informed you that we will be providing more information than is required by law going forward, as many of you have requested. As always, we believe transparency is best for all, even if the information is unsettling.

Currently, we have 77 residents in the building who are positive for COVID-19. This includes 28 residents who have come to us already positive from the hospitals due to the Governor's [March 25 mandate](#), and 49 of our existing residents. The recent increased availability of test kits enables us to test more residents, resulting in the uptick in positive test results. Since yesterday, we had seven residents test positive for COVID-19.

We are saddened by the loss of any resident at any time, but especially now during this crisis. In the little more than five weeks since our first resident tested positive for COVID-19, we have mourned the passing of 37 of our residents, as well as one of our staff members. This has been devastating, not only to their families, but also to our staff, who care for our residents as if they are family.

While we mourn these losses, we are seeing some reason for hope. To date, we have [discharged five residents](#) who came to us with a positive COVID-19 diagnosis from the hospital, and have had 29 residents recover and be medically cleared. These success stories keep us going, and help all of us move forward in very trying times.

Our staff is extraordinarily grateful to the community and our family members who have sent words of encouragement, meals and [financial support](#). More than 100 of our employees have been tested to date, with about 50 confirmed as positive for COVID-19. More than half of those have already recovered and returned to work.

We are doing our utmost to care for our residents and keep both them and our employees safe. COVID-19 is an insidious disease, and as such is a formidable foe. We join you in longing for the day when our families can come back into the building and visiting with loved ones, who we know miss you very much. Our staff also misses you.

Please be assured that you will be promptly notified if your loved one is identified as a suspected or positive case of COVID-19 or has any other significant change in condition. As always, we strictly adhere to HIPAA guidelines and cannot provide information on roommates or other specific residents.

These updates will be sent as necessary, and located on our website at www.gurwin.org/family-updates/ should you need to access them.

Thank you, and be well.

Sincerely,



Stuart B. Almer
President and CEO

Video Chat with your loved one: email videochat@gurwin.org to request a time. (Limit one per family per week, please.)

Send your loved one a **Gurwin Gram Gram**. Send a **short** video to us via Facebook Messenger or by email to info@gurwin.org, and we'll deliver your good wishes.

Visit our [website at www.gurwin.org](http://www.gurwin.org) for Frequently Asked Questions or other updates on COVID-19.

Gurwin Healthcare System

631.715.2000 | 68 Hauppauge Road • Commack, NY 11725 | gurwin.org

