Dear Gurwin Residents and Family Members:

As you know, last week Governor Cuomo reversed his March 25 mandate requiring all nursing homes to accept patients from the hospital who are COVID-19 positive. In the nine days since that reversal, we have significantly reduced the number of positive cases in our building, and are pleased to report that our 2 South unit, which was previously an isolation unit for COVID-19 positive residents, has been cleared and is in the process of being deeply cleaned and sanitized. We anticipate welcoming new residents through its doors soon.

Many family members have reached out to us over the past several days, concerned they have not seen a family update since Friday. As a reminder, updates are required by the NYS Department of Health (DOH) whenever there is a new positive case or should one of our residents pass from COVID-19. With no news to report, we did not send communications Saturday, Sunday or yesterday - essentially, no news is good news! However, we have issued a weekly cumulative update for several weeks, and wanted to provide that information to you today.

Currently, we have 33 residents in our nursing and rehabilitation facility who are positive for COVID-19, 21 of whom came to us already positive from local hospitals. All positive residents are cared for in our dedicated isolation unit, which is now exclusively our 2 North unit. Since Friday, we have had no residents test newly positive for COVID-19; however, we do await the results of ten tests today.

Loss has been heartbreaking for our families and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic, and it is with great sadness that we report that we have lost 52 of our beloved residents to the disease since the crisis began. We also mourn one of our staff members, who passed away in early April. As we have said previously, we hold our residents dearly and our staff considers themselves extended family members. The loss we have sustained has affected our staff deeply and will remain with us.

Now in the third month of this crisis, we are becoming cautiously optimistic. We are happy to share with you today with some good news to celebrate. Besides the re-opening of our 2 South rehabilitation unit, we also have celebrated the recovery of more than 100 residents over the past two months. Each time someone is moved from the 2 North isolation unit or is able to be discharged home, our entire team rejoices.

Our staff is extraordinarily grateful to the community and our family members who have sent words of encouragement, meals and financial donations to support them while they battle COVID-19 both here and in their personal lives. You may have heard about Governor Cuomo’s new requirement that all nursing home and assisted living employees be tested twice weekly for the virus. We will begin that testing tomorrow, and will report findings in next week’s cumulative update. To date, almost 120 of our employees have been tested, with 91 confirmed positive. Many have already made a full recovery and returned to work.

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.

Sincerely,
The Gurwin Care Team

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.