To our Gurwin Family Members:

Each day, we inform you, as required by the NYS Department of Health (DOH), if there are any new positive cases of COVID-19 in our community, as well as if we have lost anyone to the disease over the past 24 hours. Today we are writing to inform you that we have had one resident test positive for COVID-19 since yesterday, and have sadly lost one of our residents as well.

Many of you have asked about our practices throughout this crisis, and we thought this a good opportunity to recap how things have evolved and what we are now doing in order to keep our residents and our staff safe.

- First, we have appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for all staff, and they are educated on its proper use on an ongoing basis. We continue to obtain supplies - often at great cost - in order to be sure our staff has what is needed to perform their jobs safely. Many members of our community have stepped up as well, donating masks and face shields, as well as providing monetary donations, which has been invaluable.

- When the NYS DOH mandated on March 25 that all nursing homes admit stable, COVID-19 positive patients from the hospitals for rehabilitation, we had already purchased infection control isolation barriers to seal off designated isolation rooms as needed as the pandemic unfolded. We continued to expand the isolation area which now encompasses two units, to sequester the growing number of hospital admissions as well as those of our residents whom we are treating for COVID-19. In addition, we have designated another isolated observational area for those who have been tested and are awaiting results.

- To enhance infection prevention practices, we have dedicated specific staff for the COVID-19 isolation units. Staff members who are working with COVID-19 positive residents are dedicated specifically to the care of these individuals and are appropriately attired in full PPE. Those who have been working with our COVID-19 negative residents will remain caring for them only and are wearing masks to further enhance infection prevention.

- Communal dining has been discontinued temporarily, and all residents are served in their rooms on disposable tableware. Therapeutic Recreation programming continues on the units, on a more individual basis.

- Finally, as you are aware, visitation continues to be restricted. With the weather getting warmer, many family members have asked about arranging a visit outdoors. As of now, we cannot accommodate those requests, as we are following DOH and Centers for Disease Control guidelines which require residents to remain in their rooms.

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 are located on our website at www.gurwin.org/family-updates/ should you need to access them.

Be well,
The Gurwin Care Team

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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.


If you are interested in donating to our COVID-19 Relief Fund, visit our website at www.gurwin.org/donate.

Thank you.

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Video Chat with your loved one: email videochat@gurwin.org to request a time.

(Limit one per family per week, please.)