

## Gurwin Jewish ~ Fay J. Lindner Residences

Wednesday, May 13, 2020  
5:15 PM

Dear Gurwin Family Members:

First and foremost, I wanted to start off by thanking you for your continued support and understanding throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the past two months, I have personally spoken with dozens of families in our efforts to be fully transparent as conditions at Gurwin and in the local community dramatically changed. Our Lindner team adapted as each new challenge presented itself, and I hope you know that our combined efforts to keep your loved ones safe have been our only focus throughout this health crisis.

While much of the nation, including Long Island, continues to remain on PAUSE, we are now planning our next steps, using testing data and caution, to start to reduce some of the restrictions placed upon our residents. However, it is important to understand the full scope of the virus' impact on our community. Since our first resident tested positive on March 19, 33 total residents have tested positive for COVID-19, which also includes two residents from the testing we conducted yesterday. Both of these new positive resident cases are asymptomatic (no apparent symptoms), feeling well and remain in their apartments. Of the 33 residents testing positive, nine residents passed away and 11 COVID-19 positive residents remain isolated in our community today, six of whom live in our secure memory care unit.

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. To date, 17 employees have tested positive and all but one have already made a full recovery and returned to work.

With that being said, we feel that there is certainly reason for some optimism as we look to the future, using data to drive our community forward. The key to doing this safely is with diagnostic testing and I want to briefly share with you our plans to accomplish this. This past Monday, we began testing residents in the E-Wing, and by the end of today we will have tested the entire D-Wing as well. The purpose of this is to be able to better understand the prevalence of asymptomatic residents who are potential carriers to others if the broad quarantine is lifted. Testing thus far has shown that the situation at Lindner is no different than the general community where asymptomatic carriers unknowingly have COVID-19. This is why we feel very strongly about testing all of our residents; testing enables us to lift the quarantine for those who are negative, allowing them out in small, controlled groups, especially desirable as the weather continues to improve.

We will complete the testing of the E and D Wings by the end of this week, and then conduct testing in the C and B wings, as we are able to procure more diagnostic testing kits, hopefully next week. Our hope is to be able to test the entire facility during this time. We will again repeat this same resident testing plan during the month of June, as well as testing residents who become symptomatic, and then re-evaluate future plans depending upon regulations and the changing conditions on Long Island. We are also formulating plans to begin employee testing as per Governor Cuomo's most recent Executive Order, and will provide more information in the coming days.

I hope that you find this update helpful; we will continue to send information as necessary, as we learn more about COVID-19, changes in regulations and/or its effect on our community. As always, I want to assure you that you will be promptly notified if your loved one is identified as a suspected or positive case of COVID-19. I hope that you and your family are well and please feel free to reach out to my team with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,



Michael Letter  
Administrator/COO

**Video Chat** with your loved one: email [fayjvideochat@gurwin.org](mailto:fayjvideochat@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](mailto: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.

If you are interested in donating to our [COVID-19 Relief Fund](#), visit our website at [www.gurwin.org/donate](http://www.gurwin.org/donate). Thank you.

Gurwin Healthcare System

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