Dear Gurwin Residents and Family Members:

As you know, we are required by the NY State Department of Health (DOH) to inform you of the status of COVID-19 in our facility. This update is sent when there is information to report, such as a new positive case or a loss, and weekly as a cumulative report in order to provide transparency. Brief updates are provided to our residents to view on their televisions on Channel 31, should they choose to view it, as needed.

With the state reopening slowly, and Suffolk County entering Phase 3 tomorrow, we are gearing up to open to visitors as well. While we have had no communication from the DOH as to the process for allowing visitors again, we are working on a few things that should be a relief for our residents and families:

- We are testing out a "Drive-By" schedule for our Hospice families this week, and will announce scheduling in the coming days for all other families to visit with their loved ones, where possible, from their cars. Stay tuned!
- For our residents on units who do not have patio or balcony access, we are now able to take these residents out to the main patio twice a week, if they like. We are preparing a schedule, and will begin transporting residents early next week. Many of our residents will be delighted to be outdoors, and we are looking forward to giving them an opportunity to get off the unit and see the sun! Be assured that social distancing rules will be observed and there will be increased sanitizing to the area.
- We are already planning for visitation, and are watching carefully our neighboring states to see what is working and what is not. It is likely that we will begin visits in a slow, controlled roll-out, and are looking at appropriate ways to do this, perhaps outdoors. Again, expect information about this soon, and know we understand how anxious you are to see your loved ones.

Our isolation unit on 2N continues to shrink, and today we are pleased to inform you that we have only four residents remaining on the unit, two of whom came to us previously positive from the hospital in early May. We have had no new positive results for residents since our full surveillance nasal swab testing was completed more than two weeks ago, and have celebrated more than 140 recoveries of residents who were either discharged home or who moved off the isolation unit to other floors.

The dark days of April and May stay with us, and we mourn 60 of our residents who were lost to COVID-19. With so few residents remaining who are positive, we are guardedly hopeful and pray that the worst is behind us.

Weekly testing of staff members continues to find occasional positive results, which requires the staff member to isolate for 14 days and only return to work after a negative clinical test result. Staff is for the most part asymptomatic, so diligent use of Personal Protective Equipment and other infection control practices has enabled us to control the spread of the disease within the facility. Since the weekly testing began in May, 36 employees have tested positive; over the past three months, a total of 130 employees have tested positive for COVID-19, most of whom are recovered and back 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 are 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.