Dear Gurwin Residents and Family Members:

As you know, we are required by the NY State Department of Health 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 information our families have requested. Brief updates are provided to our residents to view on their televisions on Channel 31, should they choose to view it, as needed.

While the focus of this communication, by necessity, has been the numbers, we find that the numbers are only a small part of the story. Through this very difficult time, where the world and our community have seen such devastating loss, it is hope that sustains us. Hope comes to us here in the form of our HOPE wall, the window in our main lobby that is adorned with the more than 130 names of residents who have recovered and have either been discharged or moved off our COVID-19 isolation unit. It comes in the number of our staff members, who put fear for themselves and their families aside as they continue to act as both caregiver and family member for our residents. And it comes in the number of the uplifting messages and donations provided for our frontline healthcare heroes from family members and members of our community, to thank them for their selfless caring.

And the numbers are giving us reason to be cautiously optimistic. Today, the number of residents on our 40-bed isolation unit is 22, five of whom previously came to us already positive from local hospitals. Surveillance testing has been completed on all residents, with just a handful coming back positive. These residents have been moved to the isolation unit, where they will be cared for until they test negative and can return to their unit. We have no new positive results to report since our last update.

Aggressive, twice-weekly testing of our employees has revealed a similarly low number of positive results over the past several weeks, with only five staff members testing newly positive for COVID-19 since May 20. These staff members will return to work only after 14-days of home isolation and following a negative test result.

The hardest number to report is that of loss. Since the pandemic began, we have mourned the loss of a total of 59 residents and one employee, each one unique and special to us. Reducing our loss to just the numbers diminishes their humanity and makes it that much sadder. Our Director of Pastoral Care, Rabbi Uri Lesser, sums up our staff’s feelings in a reflective essay: click here to read it.

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.