

Friday, June 23, 2020
5:00 PM

Dear Gurwin Residents and Family Members:

As the outside world moves cautiously through the phases of reopening, we know that our families are eager to begin visiting their loved ones here at Gurwin Jewish ~ Fay J. Lindner Residences. Communities in downstate New York and specifically Suffolk County were hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic; news of resurgence of the virus erupting in other areas of the country serves as a warning for us all to tread carefully. I want to assure each of you that we remain vigilant and cautious in our approach toward restarting services.

Nursing homes and assisted living facilities in New York State are bound by rules mandated by the Department of Health (DOH). These rules differ and are more stringent than those of the general population. While we await the lifting of the March 13th DOH executive order restricting visitation to our facilities and the state's policies for reopening to visitors, my team and I have been preparing to take the next step towards the resumption of in-person services. We anticipate the DOH plan will include phases and we will be ready to comply. We are eager to reunite our residents with their families; however, we must proceed with extreme caution. Preliminary guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention mandates that any new cases of COVID-19 among residents would be cause to pause reopening; we want to be sure to do everything in our power to prevent this from happening in our community.

Our next steps toward resuming our "new normal" will begin on Monday June 29th, with the modification of our patio schedule to now give each wing (B, C, D & E) an entire day from 9:00 AM- 4:00 PM to enjoy our patios, stroll around the building and/or to walk freely throughout the community -- as long as they are observant of social distancing and wearing surgical masks. We will also resume certain group activity programs in the synagogue, in groups of no more than 20 residents in order to consistently maintain a six foot distance between our residents. The Recreation staff is working on this newly modified calendar as we speak, which will soon be available on our website for families to view.

I am also pleased to announce that we will be commencing a formalized program for socially-distanced outdoor visits. Families will be able to come to the dining room patio to speak with and see their loved ones, supervised by our Recreation staff. More information on this will be available next week, including how to register; we anticipate this visitation program will begin during the second week in July -- providing there are no substantial modifications to the Department of Health's current "No Visitation" policy. We are also hoping to begin Friday night religious services in our synagogue for a limited number of residents very soon, as well.

While the virus has clearly been on a decline over the past month, we did have one resident test newly positive for COVID-19 yesterday. We are constantly meeting and fine-tuning our infection control protocols, and continually look to improve our practices. I am pleased to report that we only have three residents in the facility who remain on isolation precautions as they await two negative test results in order to officially classify them as recovered; at that point they will be able to rejoin our community. Two rounds of testing for all residents since May has been key to our ability to isolate those with COVID-19, as many people who are positive for the disease do not present symptoms. Weekly testing of our employees since May 20th continues, and has revealed three new positive test results in this period. Employees who test positive are required to isolate at home for at least 14 days, and may only return to work after a negative clinical test is obtained.

I want to thank all of our families and residents for your patience, understanding and empathy over the past several months, as we oftentimes have had to very quickly make decisions as we navigated uncharted waters. We will continue to provide updates as more information on reopening becomes available from the DOH.

My team and I look forward to seeing you all again in the near future.



Michael Letter
Administrator/COO

Video Chat with your loved one: email 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, 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. Thank you.

Gurwin Healthcare System

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