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 on their televisions via Channel 31, should they choose to view it.

Since last week, we have had one resident test newly positive for COVID-19; all families who have loved ones residing on that unit have been called, and extra precautions have been taken to ensure there is no spread of the virus to others. Our cumulative numbers remain unchanged: 150 recoveries were celebrated, while we mourned the loss of 60 of our residents since the crisis began in mid-March.

Staff testing is key to preventing the spread of infection, and this past week we had no staff members test newly positive for COVID-19. Weekly testing of our staff has resulted in occasional positive results. Since late May, when weekly testing began, we have had 45 staff test positive; most were asymptomatic. Since March, 139 employees have tested positive. Any staff member testing positive is required to isolate for 14 days and may only return to work after a negative clinical test result.

Although Governor Cuomo gave approval for nursing homes to begin to allow visitation earlier this month, the requirements for us to be able to welcome visitors are extremely stringent. This is for the protection of our residents and staff, as well as our family members. As a reminder, any positive test for a resident or staff member requires us to reset our 28-day waiting period for visiting, per the Department of Health guidelines. This means the earliest date we can expect visitation to begin, as of today, is August 19. This date is subject to change, contingent on no positive results from staff/resident testing. Please visit our website for updated information, or check your email frequently in the coming weeks for more information.

In the meantime, resident family members are encouraged to sign up for a Drive-Up visit: please click here or go to bit.ly/GurwinDriveUp. Click through to the Sign Up Genius form at the bottom of the page, and choose the date and time that works best for your 10-minute visit. A new round of visits have been opened for those looking to do a first or second visit; we will email when third visit slots open. We look forward to seeing you.

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

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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.)

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.
