

Gurwin Jewish~Fay J. Lindner Residences

Tuesday, July 14 2020
5:00 PM

Dear Gurwin Residents and Family Members:

As you may have heard on the news this weekend, Governor Cuomo has announced that the NYS Department of Health (DOH) has issued long-awaited guidance for nursing home and adult care facility visitation. While this news is certainly welcome, the guidelines come with very strict and challenging caveats that must be met in order to resume limited visitation, the most challenging condition being the requirement to have **no positive COVID-19 results for residents or staff within the past 28 days**. At the same time, the DOH must approve a visitation plan prior to us being permitted to allow visitors.

While we have made great strides in achieving a COVID-safe facility with no active resident cases, our weekly surveillance testing of staff has revealed occasional positive results, although most are asymptomatic. This is not unexpected, as our staff are out and about in the community, going about their own lives when not at work. As you know, any staff member who tests positive is required to isolate at home for 10 days and test negative before returning to work. Unfortunately, under the new [DOH guidelines](#), whenever this occurs, it would set the clock back for our facility, restricting visitation once again for 28 days. In addition, the DOH is restricting visitation to 10% of our population at any one time, with **no more than two visitors per resident on a strict scheduled basis**. Once visitors are permitted, they will be required to be screened, wear a mask and meet their loved one outside in a designated area, allowing for appropriate social distancing.

It is estimated by our industry associations that at least 90% of facilities will not be able to immediately begin visitation; **per the current guidelines, we would be permitted to begin welcoming visitors on August 9, barring a positive test for an employee or resident between now and that date**. Again, should we receive positive results for any resident or staff member, the 28-day clock begins again, and visitation will be pushed back.

Our leadership team is working diligently to meet these very stringent regulations to welcome you back just as quickly and safely as possible. We strongly encourage you at this time to [take advantage of our Patio Chat](#) visits for residents. This is a wonderful way to have a quick visit with your loved one, and goes a long way in helping them feel connected.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding as we formulate our plans to resume visitation with your loved ones in the near future. Please visit our website regularly, as the anticipated start date for visitation will be posted there and updated as needed. These family and resident updates are 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.

Schedule a **10-minute Drive-Up Visit** at the Gurwin Center. Visit bit.ly/GurwinDriveUp for details and to book your time slot.

Visit our [website at www.gurwin.org](http://www.gurwin.org) for Frequently Asked Questions and other updates on COVID-19.

Gurwin Healthcare System

631.715.2000 | 68 Hauppauge Road* Commack, NY 11725 | gurwin.org

