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.

We have no current cases of COVID-19 in our building, and we are hopeful that this will continue. Should any resident test newly positive going forward, their family member will be called, as well as the contacts for all residents on that unit. We continue diligent cleaning practices and adherence to stringent infection control protocols to do our utmost to prevent new infections. Since the crisis began in mid-March, we have celebrated 150 recoveries from COVID-19; we also mourn the loss of 61 residents, one of whom passed in recent days at the hospital.

Weekly staff testing continues, and we believe it is critical to preventing the spread of infection. This past week, we had two staff members test newly positive for the virus. Although asymptomatic, these employees are required to isolate at home for 14 days, and may only return to work after a negative clinical test result for COVID-19. Since late May, when weekly testing began, we have had 47 staff test positive, with a total of 141 employees testing positive since the health crisis began in March.

The target date for visiting continues to be pushed back 28 days with each new positive test result for staff or residents. These strict rules are in place for the protection of our residents; however, we know our families and residents alike are anxious to begin visitation. As of now, our target date is August 28, contingent on no new cases and DOH approval. We will continue to update you on the status of visitation weekly, and more frequently should the restrictions change or our date need to be pushed further out.

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. Beginning this month, family members are welcome to sign up for up to three visits per month (no more than one per week), as we know the visits are key to our resident’s well-being. 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.

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