



Gurwin Jewish Nursing & Rehabilitation Center

**Tuesday, August 25, 2020
5:00 PM**

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 are pleased to report that we currently have no residents in our building who are positive or suspected positive for COVID-19.

Visitation is on everyone's mind, including our staff and residents. We all want our families back, and understand your frustration in not being able to visit. We are still providing Drive-Up Visits; [visit bit.ly/GurwinDriveUp](https://bit.ly/GurwinDriveUp) to make your appointment for September (family members may sign up for two visits per month). You can also schedule a weekly video chat by emailing videochat@gurwin.org. We encourage you to make your voices heard in Albany, and want you to know we are doing the same. Feel free to contact your local representative or the Governor's office to let them know our residents need to see their family members and the guidance, although well-intentioned, is too strict to be practical. Per that guidance, our tentative date for reopening to visitors is September 16, pending DOH approval and barring any new positive COVID-19 test results from either residents or staff.

We are maintaining an isolation unit should we have a resident who is positive or whom we suspect to be positive, and residents will be moved there while we await test results or they recover. Should this occur, the resident's family contact will be notified, as well as all those contacts for residents on the units affected. Our staff is committed to creating a COVID-safe environment; as such, we continue diligent cleaning practices and adherence to stringent infection control protocols. Since the crisis began in mid-March, we have celebrated 150

recoveries from COVID-19; we also continue to mourn the loss of 61 residents.

Our staff continues to be tested weekly for COVID-19, which is critical in preventing the spread of infection. Any staff member who tests positive is 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, 48 staff members have tested newly positive for COVID-19, one of whom tested positive last week, for a total of 142 employees testing positive since the health crisis began in March.

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.

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

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