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.

As reported several times over the past week, we have undergone a complete COVID-19 surveillance testing protocol for all residents at our facility. The first round yielded one positive result; this resident is asymptomatic and has been quarantined on our designated COVID-19 isolation unit. We are currently undergoing two additional rounds of testing to ensure there is no further spread of the virus at Gurwin. Each resident's designated representative will receive a call with test results and any further information as necessary. All staff is well-versed in appropriate infection control procedures, and we have ample Personal Protective Equipment for their use to keep our residents and staff safe.

This positive result does have an effect on our visitation plans; unfortunately, our target date has been revised to September 27, barring any new positive test results from staff or residents and with approval by the DOH. We know this is not welcome news for our families or our residents. We want our families back as badly as they want to come back. Under current DOH regulations, however, we must be 28 days free from a COVID-19 positive result before we can begin allowing visitation.

We continue to provide Drive-Up Visits for our families and residents who are not currently on a quarantined unit, as well as weekly video chat opportunities. Please be sure to visit bit.ly/GurwinDriveUp to make your Drive-Up Visit appointment for September (family members may sign up for two visits per month), and schedule your weekly video chat by emailing videochat@gurwin.org.

Our staff continues to be tested weekly for COVID-19. As a reminder, 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, 49 staff members have tested newly positive for COVID-19, one of whom tested positive last week, for a total of 143 employees testing positive since the health crisis began in March, many of whom have been asymptomatic and most of whom have recovered fully and have returned to work. In addition, we celebrated more than 150 resident
recoveries from COVID-19, and continue to mourn the loss of 61 residents to the disease.

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.
