



Gurwin Jewish Nursing & Rehabilitation Center

**Tuesday, September 22, 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.

Visitation is on everyone's mind since it was announced last week that the requirements to allow visitation in New York nursing homes have been relaxed from 28-days COVID-19-free status among staff and residents to 14 days, pending approval from the DOH. As we near clearance of these deadlines, we are finalizing plans and will be able to communicate the details of those plans to our family members and residents within a day or so. Please monitor your email.

Last week, we had a surprise visit from the DOH's infection control survey team, who were impressed with our infection control protocols and policies. They found no deficiencies; however, they require one more surveillance test of our residents, which will be completed on Thursday, September 24. This will help with approval of our visitation plan.

As you know, our staff continues to be tested weekly. Any positive result requires the employee to quarantine at home for 14 days, and only return to work after proof of a negative clinical test. Since regular testing of staff began in May, 51 of our employees have tested positive for COVID-19; 145 total staff members have tested positive since the pandemic began (no change from last week's message). Our cumulative numbers of COVID-19 recoveries and deaths also remain unchanged: we have celebrated more than 150 recoveries and mourn the loss of 61 residents from COVID-19.

Drive-Up Visits and weekly video chats have been a good option for many resident families to keep in touch with their loved ones. Please be sure to [visit bit.ly/GurwinDriveUp](https://bit.ly/GurwinDriveUp) to make your Drive-Up Visit appointments (family members may sign up for two visits per month) - October visits are now open, and **a very limited Sunday morning schedule will be opened for sign up**

tomorrow morning (9/23) at 9:00am. Please be considerate of all families, and only sign up for a Sunday visit if you are unable to facilitate a weekday visit. Only one Sunday visit will be allowed per family per month. **As a reminder, all Drive-Up visitors MUST wear a mask for the duration of the visit.**

Weekly video chats can be arranged by emailing videochat@gurwin.org. **Gurwin Gram Grams** - short video messages - are another way to brighten the day of our residents. Send them through Facebook Messenger or by emailing info@gurwin.org. Our staff will deliver them for 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

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

