Dear Gurwin Residents and Family Members:

As you know, we send a weekly email with updated information regarding COVID-19 in our facility. These emails are meant to keep you up-to-date on the incidence of infection among our staff and residents, as well as to provide transparency as to total numbers of infections, recoveries and deaths from the pandemic to date. We also want to reassure you that every effort is being made to keep your loved one safe, including:

- screening staff daily and testing them weekly;
- ensuring any staff member testing positive remains out for a minimum of 14 days, pending a negative clinical test;
- daily monitoring and weekly testing of residents whenever there is a positive result among staff or residents;
- maintaining our COVID-19 isolation unit for any residents who do test positive, where all infection control protocols are expressly followed;
- additionally, maintaining an isolated 14-day observation unit for residents who return to Gurwin after a hospital stay or medically necessary appointment, or who are new admissions;
- and, providing our staff with ongoing education and appropriate PPE in order to keep themselves and our residents safe.

Due to weekly testing of residents and staff, we have had to report an occasional positive result, and we need to do so again today. A positive result was received for a resident late yesterday; this resident is asymptomatic and feeling well, however, they have been moved to the isolation unit for at least 14 days, pending the receipt of a negative clinical test. Unfortunately, because of this new positive result, our In-Person Visit target date, as determined by the NY State Department of Health (DOH), is now moved to Monday, November 30 due to reporting requirements and additional surveillance testing protocols.

Although our In-Person Visit target date has been postponed, we continue sign-ups for an expanded Drive-Up Visit schedule. Families are able to schedule three Drive-Up Visits per month at this time. Please look for information as we get closer to our opening date. To access the sign up, visit [bit.ly/GurwinVisits](http://bit.ly/GurwinVisits).

Guidelines you will need for visits can be found on our website.
With the new positive result, we currently have three residents in-house who are positive for COVID-19, all found through the weekly surveillance testing and all of whom are asymptomatic. Throughout the pandemic, we have had more than 150 of our residents recover from the disease, and unfortunately had 61 residents lose their battle with the virus. Of our more than 1000 staff who are tested weekly, 151 have tested positive for the virus since March, most of whom are also asymptomatic, and all of whom are required to quarantine for 14 days, returning to work only after a negative clinical test for COVID-19.

Please be assured 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. You will find past Family and Resident Updates on our website at [www.guwin.org/family-updates/](http://www.guwin.org/family-updates/) should you need to access them.

Our priority is the health and well-being of your family member. With the many challenges that the pandemic has presented, most notably the continued impact it’s had on visitation, staying connected is vital to our residents’ well-being. As such, we are inviting each family member to participate in our virtual Thanksgiving Gurwin Gram Video to be shown to all residents at the Gurwin Center on the Thanksgiving holiday, via our closed-circuit TVs. Your loving message, song, dance or whatever thoughtful expression you can create on your smartphone or other device will be part of a larger video that all residents will be able to see and enjoy, including those who do not have family. Please send your short video message (1 minute or less) to info@gurwin.org (videos can be uploaded through a free file transfer service such as WeTransfer.com) no later than Thursday, November 19 to enable us to compile them for our residents.

We realize how difficult these past months have been and we thank you for your understanding and cooperation. Please know our priority is the health and well-being of your loved one. We look forward to receiving your Thanksgiving Gurwin Gram videos and the joy it will bring to all those who call Gurwin home.

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.


Visit our website at [www.guwin.org](http://www.gurwin.org) for Frequently Asked Questions and other updates on COVID-19.
It's Flu Season! Protect yourself and those you love by getting your flu shot today!

Gurwin Healthcare System
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