WEEKLY UPDATE AND VISITATION INFORMATION
Wednesday, December 16, 2020
3:00 PM

Dear Gurwin Residents and Family Members:

Just this week, we saw the first arrival of the COVID-19 vaccine on Long Island, which began being administered to frontline caregivers in hospitals. Today, we learned from our pharmacy partner, Walgreens, that the very first doses of the Pfizer vaccine would be arriving at our nursing and rehabilitation center to be administered to staff and residents beginning Monday, December 21, with additional clinics planned for January. We are working to determine which residents will receive the first of two doses of the vaccine on Monday at our first clinic (this is dependent on some health questions and, of course, consent), with an added opportunity for the first dose to be administered in several weeks should that be indicated. Second doses will be administered at subsequent clinics based on recommended timeframes. Please keep an eye out later today or tomorrow for further details on the COVID-19 vaccine rollout, including information as necessary to discuss the vaccine and to obtain consent for resident immunization.

The vaccine's arrival is welcome and particularly timely, as the uptick of COVID-19 cases on Long Island and across the nation challenges us here at Gurwin, as well; several of our residents and staff have tested positive over the past week. We are hopeful that a safe and effective vaccine, along with good infection control practices like avoiding indoor gatherings, wearing a mask and maintaining social distancing when in public, and washing hands frequently, will help us take the first step to putting the pandemic behind us. We all have the power to help stop the spread, and need to do what we can to keep each other and our residents safe.

Our best wishes to you for a happy holiday season.

Sincerely,
The Gurwin Care Team

Holiday Wishes for Our Residents

Have you sent in your video yet? We invite all families to participate in our "Happy Holidays" video to our residents by sending in a short (one minute or less) clip wishing your loved one and all our residents and staff a happy holiday. Videos can be sent from multiple family members for inclusion as part of a larger
video montage that we will stream for our residents during the week of December 20. Remind our residents you’re thinking of them, and hoping for a time soon that you can all be together.

Videos can be emailed or sent via WeTransfer to info@gurwin.org. In creating your video, keep it upbeat, include the children and the pets, and help us spread some holiday cheer! Keep videos horizontal, please! **Deadline has been extended to Friday, December 18.**

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**Visitation Update**

As of this writing, the community spread in Suffolk County for COVID-19 is almost 7%, making it inevitable that there will be an uptick in positive results among our staff, as well. Be assured, all staff members are educated regularly and encouraged to follow strict infection control protocol not only at Gurwin, but also in their personal lives.

Although most of the positive results are found through our routine testing, and most of the staff members testing positive are asymptomatic, new positive results do, unfortunately, affect our In-Person Visit target date. Currently, that target date is December 30. More details will follow as we get closer.

Where possible, please take advantage of our Drive-Up Visits. Sign up at [bit.ly/GurwinVisits](http://bit.ly/GurwinVisits). Residents may receive **up to three** Drive-Up Visits per month. As a reminder, residents are not able to receive Drive-Up Visits while their unit is on quarantine.

Weekly video chats are also available for residents to visit with loved ones. Appointments are available by emailing [videochat@gurwin.org](mailto:videochat@gurwin.org).

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**COVID-19 Update**

As you know, we are required to inform you any time we have a new positive case of COVID-19 among our staff or residents, as well as to provide weekly updates on the incidence of the COVID-19 virus in our facility and our cumulative numbers associated with the pandemic since its inception.

At this time, we have three residents in our isolation unit with COVID-19, and one who is currently in the hospital. A number of units are on quarantine to prevent against the possible spread of the virus. Since the pandemic began, we have successfully rehabilitated more than 160 residents, and mourn the loss of 61 of our residents to COVID-19. We have had 172 staff members test positive for the disease since March, many of whom are asymptomatic and found through our weekly surveillance testing of employees. Regardless, any staff person who tests positive is required to quarantine at home for at least 14 days, and is only able to return to work after a negative clinical test.

Please be assured you will be promptly notified by phone if your loved one is identified as a suspected or positive case of COVID-19, is on a floor which is quarantined, or has any other significant change in condition. You will find past Family and Resident Updates on our website at [www.gurwin.org/family-updates/](http://www.gurwin.org/family-updates/) should you need to access them.
WANTED: Gently Used iPads or Other Tablets

Many thanks to Mike P., who answered the call to help keep our residents and families connected during these challenging times. Mike's generous donation of an iPad and tablet will go a long way toward helping make the holidays brighter for those who call Gurwin home. If you have a new or gently used device you are not using, please consider donating it to Gurwin. Call Nicole at (631) 715-2635. Thank you!

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.

Go to bit.ly/GurwinVisits to schedule a 10-minute Drive-Up Visit.