Dear Gurwin Residents and Family Members:

Yesterday, Gurwin made history as our residents and staff were among the first to receive the COVID-19 vaccine from our pharmacy partner, Walgreens. The promise the vaccine holds for millions of people was palpable, and those receiving the vaccine expressed hope and relief that the vaccine would be the first step in reuniting you with your loved ones and keeping everyone safe. Those who did not receive the vaccine yesterday will have another opportunity on January 11; please be sure to contact us via email at covidvaccine@gurwin.org or by calling the unit social worker if you would like to provide consent.

We can't stress enough how welcome the vaccine is, especially as positive cases of COVID-19 remain high in our community. It's more important now more than ever to stay vigilant, practicing all infection prevention measures, including limiting large gatherings, washing hands frequently, and wearing a mask while maintaining social distancing. Let's all do what we can to help stop the spread, and potentially save a life.

Our best wishes to you for a happy holiday season.

Sincerely,
The Gurwin Care Team

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Holiday Wishes for Our Residents

Thanks to everyone who sent in holiday wishes for our residents and staff. The video montage will be played for our residents beginning tomorrow, and is sure to bring smiles to the faces of all who see it. Stay tuned for a link to the video, which you can watch at your leisure!

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Visitation Update
As of this writing, the community spread in Suffolk County for COVID-19 is more than 7%, and we have had a number of positive test results for our residents and staff over the past few weeks. As such, the NY State Department of Health contacted us today, and is requiring us to quarantine all units, with testing on January 5 in order to lift the quarantine. Unfortunately, it takes several days to receive test results, so we will be unable to begin plans to resume Drive-Up or begin In-Person Visits until at least January 9. At that time, sign up slots will be available at bit.ly/GurwinVisits for Drive-Up and, if possible, In-Person Visits beginning January 11.

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 COVID-19 isolation unit, and one who is currently in the hospital. All units are on quarantine, due to DOH requirements. 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 180 staff members test positive for the disease since March (two reported since yesterday's email), 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.guwin.org/family-updates/ should you need to access them.