

Gurwin Jewish Nursing & Rehabilitation Center

WEEKLY UPDATE AND VISITATION INFORMATION

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

5:00 PM

Dear Gurwin Residents and Family Members:

Last week, we learned from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that long-term care residents and staff would be the first to be offered the COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available later this month. While we still have many questions, we have moved ahead with selecting a partner for distributing the vaccine, and await further guidance from the CDC and NY State Department of Health (DOH). As we know more, we will certainly communicate that to you, as each resident will need to consent if they are to receive the vaccine.

In other news, we are happy to welcome our new Medical Director, Dr. Elliot Schwartz, who will be joining us from TeamHealth beginning next week. This kicks off our partnership with TeamHealth, which you will hear more about in the coming weeks, as we have more details to share.

With the winter holidays upon us, we are hopeful that our community mitigates the risk of spreading COVID-19 by avoiding large, indoor gatherings, wearing a mask and maintaining social distancing whenever they are in public, and washing their hands frequently. As we remind our staff regularly, we all have the power to help stop the spread, and need to do what we can to keep our residents safe.

Our best wishes to you for a happy holiday season.

Sincerely,
The Gurwin Care Team

Holiday Wishes for Our Residents

We invite all families to participate in our "Happy Holidays" video to our residents by sending in a short (one minute or less) video 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 on 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 is Wednesday, December 16.**



**Load up the family and join us for a
Drive-Through Festival of Lights
on the Gurwin campus***
Monday, December 14 & Tuesday, December 15
For more information, visit bit.ly/GurwinLights

**made possible by the generosity of our sponsors*

Visitation Update

As of this writing, the community spread in Suffolk County for COVID-19 is more than 6%, which makes it inevitable that there will be an uptick in positive results among our staff, as well. Be assured, they are educated regularly regarding infection control protocol; however, they are members of the community as you are, and are at risk of exposure not only here at Gurwin, but also when they grocery shop, pick their children up from school, or put gas in their cars.

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 23. More details will follow as we get closer.

Where possible, please take advantage of our Drive-Up Visits. Sign up at 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.

COVID-19 Update

As you know, we are required 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.

Currently, we have one resident in-house who has tested positive for COVID-19, with a number of units 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 168 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/ should you need to access them.



WANTED: Gently Used iPads or Other Tablets

Have an iPad or other tablet lying around that you might like to donate? Our Therapeutic Recreation staff has helped to facilitate more than 10,000 virtual visits between residents and their family members, and we can use more devices in order to offer more visits at one time! If you are able to help, email info@gurwin.org for more information. Thanks!

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.

Visit our [website at www.gurwin.org](http://www.gurwin.org) for Frequently Asked Questions and other updates on COVID-19.

It's Flu Season! Click here for a message from our staff and residents on protecting yourself and those you love against flu and COVID-19.

Gurwin Healthcare System

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