Dear Gurwin Residents and Family Members:

We are all so delighted to welcome our families back to our facility, and know that many of you are relieved to have new guidance from the NY State Department of Health and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services that allows for indoor visitation in skilled nursing facilities regardless of whether there is a positive case of COVID-19 among staff or residents. Whenever there is a positive test result within the past 14 days, facilities are considered to be in an "outbreak investigation;" and while it is always a potential risk to visit during these times, it is now the decision of the resident and family member, not the DOH. Gurwin is currently in an outbreak investigation at least through Friday, December 3.

Our outbreak investigation has been extended because we were notified today of a positive COVID-19 test result for a resident, found during our surveillance testing, as well as for one of our staff members who has no resident contact. Family members of the unit where the positive resident resides will be notified separately, as their unit will be on transmission based precautions during the outbreak investigation. Residents of that unit will be tested at least twice over the next two weeks as a precaution. This is a good reminder that all visitors must be aware of precaution signs that are on individual resident doors, and to read them prior to entering. Should the resident or unit be on transmission based precautions, visitors will be required to wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment in order to conduct the visit safely.

With visitation back in full swing, we have some answers to questions we have been receiving that may help your family, as well:

- **KIOSK** All visitors must sign in at the lobby kiosks before visiting, and sign out when leaving the building. This is an important, as it enables us to know not only who is in the building at any given time, but also to contact
trace should there be a positive case of COVID-19. Please read the questions carefully each time you sign in - the questions are subject to change, and much visiting time can be lost if your answers trigger an alert on the kiosk. Should you receive an alert, do not proceed to resident room; instead, check in with the receptionist.

- **RESIDENT LAUNDRY** We know many family members prefer to take care of their loved one's laundry, and we are happy that this is now possible again. Should you prefer to do the laundry for your loved one, please make certain that the nurse's station is notified, and that you affix a sign on the top of the resident's laundry hamper noting "Family Does Laundry."

- **PETS** We are delighted to be able to welcome pets back in to visit. Please click the link below to view the requirements. Most importantly, prior to visiting, all pets must be approved by our Therapeutic Recreation Department staff after receipt of medical/vaccination history from the pet's veterinarian, so please plan ahead.

### Pet Visitation Requirements

- **TAKING A RESIDENT OUT ON PASS** The new guidance from CMS and the NYS DOH notes that residents are permitted to leave the facility to go out on pass if they choose. The regulations note:

  > Should a resident choose to leave, the facility should remind the resident and any individual accompanying the resident to follow all recommended infection prevention practices including wearing a face covering or mask, physical distancing and hand hygiene, and to encourage those around them to do the same.

  Upon the resident's return, nursing homes should take the following actions:
  
  - **Screen residents upon return for signs/symptoms of COVID-19, and determine if there was contact with anyone with COVID-19 while outside the facility. Non-Vaccinated residents may be quarantined should there be a concern of exposure.**
  - **Nursing home may also opt to test unvaccinated residents without cause if they leave frequently or for a prolonged period of time (more than 24 hours).**
  - **Facilities might consider quarantining unvaccinated residents if there is uncertainty about their adherence or the adherence of those around them to recommended infection prevention measures.**
  - **Residents who leave the facility for 24 hours or longer should generally be managed as a new admission or readmission.**

### GENERAL VISITATION INFORMATION

Visits may take place in resident rooms or other designated areas. At this time, the cafe is open to employees only. In order that we continue to abide by the core principles of infection prevention, we ask the following:
In order to ensure physical distancing, each resident may have two visitors at any one time. There is no limit to the number of visitors in one day;
- All visitors must wear a mask at all times while in the building;
- Please perform hand hygiene by washing your hands or using hand sanitizer often during your visit;
- Maintain physical distancing to the best of your ability while visiting.

All visitors must sign in at the lobby kiosk and answer screening questions prior to entry. Please wear visitor badge at all times while in the building, and remember to sign out at the kiosk when you leave.

For more information, click on the link below, or visit gurwin.org/visitation-policy.

Visitation Guidelines

Please email info@gurwin.org with questions. Thank you.

Best regards,

The Gurwin Care Team

Get the Accushield Fast Track Visitation Entrance Pass -- Click Here to Learn More.

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.


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