Dear Gurwin Residents and Family Members:

As required by the NY State Department of Health (DOH), we are writing today to inform you that we have received notification that one of our residents has tested positive for COVID-19. We are currently conducting contact tracing, and will test any residents or staff members who may have been exposed at least twice in the coming days to ensure negative results. If this affects your loved one, his/her designated representative will have been notified by phone. Since last week, four staff members and 11 residents have tested positive for COVID-19; we currently have 16 residents on our COVID-19 isolation units and nine staff from multiple departments are furloughed due to positive COVID-19 infection.

Free COVID-19 Test Kits

COVID-19 test kits are now available from the federal government. Sign up to receive your four kits per household using the link below: https://www.covidtests.gov/

Helping Our Community

Our neighbor, the Suffolk Y JCC, has hosted a sharing table throughout the pandemic, helping local families who may be experiencing food insecurity due to lost wages or illness. We are proud to partner with the Y JCC to replenish the stock available as our community continues to recover from the effects of COVID-19. Any help our Gurwin families can provide in donating is greatly appreciated - if you’ll be visiting or in the neighborhood from now through Sunday, please consider a donation. See below for information, and requested food items. Bins will be located in our lobby vestibules through Sunday, 1/30.
Visiting Information

Visitor Testing Requirement Continues
As you know, NY State Department of Health now requires all nursing home visitors to be tested for COVID-19 prior to visiting. A rapid test taken no more than the day prior to the visit, or a PCR test taken no more than two days prior is required in order to visit residents in any nursing facility in the state. Should you be unable to obtain a test in the required timeframe, a limited number of tests will be available for visitor use as visitors enter the building.
Procedure is as follows:

- **All visitors must report to receptionist prior to entering.**
- If you have a test from within the required timeframe, bring the result with you for authorization prior to your visit. If it is an at-home test, please take a photo of the final result and be prepared to present the photo upon entering the facility. **Once your test result is verified, you will be directed to proceed to the kiosk for screening.**
- If you are unable to obtain a test within the allotted timeframe prior to visiting, please park in the 10-minute zone outside of the front doors upon your arrival. Enter the facility and obtain a test kit from reception. Return to your car and follow the directions to administer the test to yourself.
- After waiting the allotted time, check results.
  - **If positive, please do not reenter the facility.** Return home and follow CDC guidance for when it is safe to return to visit.
  - If negative, either take a photo of the result with your phone **OR** place the test in the bag provided, seal it, and bring it into the facility to the reception desk for verification. **Once your test result is verified, discard the test, sanitize your hands, then proceed to the kiosk for screening.**
  - Please be patient and expect some wait time to check in. We appreciate your understanding as we strive to abide by ever-changing regulations and continue to work to keep our residents and staff safe.

**Visitation Guidelines**

As per DOH guidance, visitation remains open; however we must caution all visitors that we are in an outbreak investigation due to positive test results among staff and residents, and you are at increased risk for exposure to COVID-19 when visiting at this time.

- During the omicron outbreak investigation, preferred visiting hours are from 8:30 AM to 8:00 PM.
- Please do not visit if you are not feeling well.
- **Wear a mask at all times while in the facility,** including throughout your visit with your loved one. N95 or surgical masks are best; should you prefer to wear a cloth mask, we have a supply of surgical masks for your use at the front door. You may wear them over the cloth mask.
- **Sanitize your hands often,** especially when entering and leaving our facility.
- Maintain physical distancing wherever possible.
- We strongly encourage all visitors to be vaccinated against COVID-19--and when eligible, boosted--prior to visiting.
- **Testing, which will soon be required,** is advised before your visit.
- Please be sure to inform us if you test positive within 10 days after a visit to our Center.

We appreciate your cooperation. Please email info@gurwin.org with questions. Thank you.

The Gurwin Care Team

Gurwin Healthcare System
631.715.2000 | 68 Hauppauge Road • Commack, NY 11725 | [gurwin.org](http://gurwin.org)