Monday, January 17, 2022

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 as well as two of our staff members. The resident has been moved to our isolation unit, where he/she will be cared for until cleared to return to a regular unit. We are currently conducting contact tracing for both the resident and staff members, and will test any residents or staff 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.

**Visitor Testing Requirement**

As you know, the NY State Department of Health now requires all nursing home visitors to be tested for COVID-19 prior to visiting. A rapid test taken within 24-hours of the visit, or a PCR test taken within 48-hours will be required, effective immediately. 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 will be as follows:

- If you have a test report 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.
- If you are unable to obtain a test 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 and form from reception. Return to your car and follow the directions to administer the test to yourself.
- While waiting for test results, fill out the form. 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, place the test in the bag provided, seal it, and bring it and the form into the facility for verification.
As all visitors will need to show proof of a test or be tested upon arrival, please expect wait times up to 30 minutes (if you are testing), or 10 minutes if you are showing a negative test result obtained elsewhere. We appreciate your patience 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.

- 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

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**Gurwin Healthcare System**

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