Wednesday, February 2, 2022

Dear Gurwin Residents and Family Members:

We are pleased that we have had no new positive COVID-19 cases to report since late last week, and do feel as though the rate of infection is slowing down. That said, we know we must stay vigilant to keep the virus at bay, and we appreciate the help of all visitors in this effort. Any positive test result requires us to complete contact tracing, and to test all residents and staff who may have been exposed at least twice to ensure they are negative. The designated representative of any residents who are exposed will always be notified by phone. Since last report, three staff members and nine residents have tested positive for COVID-19; we currently have 10 residents being cared for on our COVID-19 isolation units, and three staff members from multiple departments are furloughed due to positive COVID-19 infection.

REMINDER: Get Your 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/

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.

- Visitor movement is restricted to the resident's room.
- 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; we have a supply of surgical masks for your use at the front door. If wearing a cloth mask, you **MUST** wear a surgical mask 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.**
- 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