

COVID-19 UPDATE

9-17-2020

Dear Residents and Family Members:

As a result of the advocacy from our Long Term Care Associations, and most likely, many family members of nursing home residents, I am pleased to report that the New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH) has revised the previously issued guidance for resumption of visitation. Beginning on Friday, September 18, 2020, nursing homes may resume limited visitation provided there are no new cases of COVID-19 in the facility for a period of no less than fourteen (14) days. This replaces previous guidance, requiring a period of 28 days COVID-free. Lutheran Care Center has now achieved 14 days of no new cases for residents or staff, so **we will resume visitation on Friday, September 18, 2020!** While this is certainly encouraging, there are a number of guidelines to which skilled nursing facilities must adhere in order to mitigate the risk of introduction of COVID-19 to the facility. We have summarized plans for LCC below, so please review these guidelines carefully:

1. Prior to resident access, **all visitors will be screened for signs and symptoms of COVID-19**. Visitors will also be required to **provide their contact information** in the event contact tracing is necessary. **Please complete the attached form BEFORE YOU ARRIVE to save time.**
2. **Visitors MUST present a verified, NEGATIVE COVID-19 TEST RESULT that was conducted within the last 7 days.** *The 7-day requirement starts from the date of the collection of the specimen.
3. Two 30 minute visitation sessions will be held **Monday through Friday**:
 - a. 10:45 – 11:15 a.m. – **Arrive at 10:15 a.m.** for screening and check-in.
 - b. 2:45 – 3:15 p.m. – **Arrive at 2:15 p.m.** for screening and check-in.
 - c. Evening and weekend visitation will remain virtual.
4. In the best interest of our residents, due to cooler temperatures we will be utilizing our **Adult Day Care Center** space as our designated visitation area. The ADHC program is suspended temporarily due to COVID, and the space is large enough to allow for physical distancing.
 - a. Park in the back of the building.
 - b. Follow the signs directing you to the ADHC area entrance.
5. **Visitation will be limited to 10 individuals, and a maximum TWO (2) visitors** will be allowed per resident at any one time. No one **under the age of 18 years old may visit** residents at this time.
6. All **visitors MUST WEAR A FACE MASK AT ALL TIMES** when on LCC's premises and must maintain physical distancing of six (6) feet.
7. Please note that all newly admitted residents to LCC must isolate for 14 days, so **they will be ineligible for visitation until the end of 14 days** from their date of admission.

If you are confident that you meet all the above requirements and wish to schedule a visit, please contact **Diane Archibald directly at 845-235-8104**. You can also call the facility's main number at 845-486-9494, Ext.104 to schedule a visit.

As per NYS DOH directive, any visitor that fails to provide a negative COVID-19 test result, exhibits any COVID-19 virus symptoms, or does not pass the screening questions, MUST BE DENIED VISITATION.

We will continue to provide alternative methods of visitation via FaceTime and/or Skype for residents that are bed bound or are unable to be transported to the ADC area for other reasons. Window visits and the virtual visits above will continue to be utilized in the evenings and on the weekends.

Please be aware that the NYS DOH has directed that any COVID-19 positive results for a resident or a staff person will RESULT IN IMMEDIATE HALTING OF NURSING HOME VISITATION FOR 14 DAYS from the date of identification.

We will provide a "Fact Sheet" upon entry to the visitation area, outlining visitor expectations that you should read carefully. Staff will be on hand to ensure that visitors are adhering to DOH guidelines. In an effort to ensure resident and staff safety and continue visitation at LCC, please be prepared to follow these directives.

Again, your patience during this process is necessary and appreciated. We may have to tweak our procedure several times before getting it right. This is new to all facilities, but we will do our best to welcome our families back.

Looking forward to seeing you!!!

Patricia Ludington, RN
Administrator