

COVID-19 UPDATE

8-7-2020

To Our Residents and Family Members:

While awaiting approval for the “Reopening” Plan we submitted to the New York State Department of Health, we continue to prepare the facility, staff, and residents for visitation and a smooth transition to a “new normal.” If DOH approval is received, our anticipated date for resumed visitation is Friday, August 14, barring any COVID positive results from residents and/or our staff. Multiple staff will be on hand to monitor compliance with physical distancing, presence of masks, and duration of each visit. As previously mentioned, any newly acquired “positive” test result in the facility will delay visitation for another 28 days from the date of identification. Admittedly, I recognize and sympathize with the frustration this will likely cause, but this is the regulation to which all facilities must adhere. Since these are uncharted waters for all nursing homes eligible for resumption of visitation, we assume there could be a glitch or two in our plan, so we do ask for your patience and understanding. We will be providing more information on the website as plans are finalized.

LCC is, again, able to report no new COVID positive cases within our resident or staff population since our last update. Our designated COVID-19 section remains empty, and we have had no COVID-19 related deaths since the start of the pandemic. New Yorkers testing positive and virus-related hospitalization numbers continue to remain very low this week.

Since elective surgeries have been approved to resume in hospitals, we are very pleased that the number of new admissions to our facility is improving, and most are enjoying successful outcomes, thanks to our Rehab and Nursing Departments! All potential new admits must test negative for COVID at discharge from the hospital, prior to admission to LCC. Our staff retests them when they arrive, and if admitted, they are placed with other new or recent admits or, occasionally, in a single room as a precautionary measure. Like all our residents, our new admissions are carefully screened for signs and/or symptoms of COVID-19 each day.

Since the onset of the pandemic several months ago, our “LCC Heroes” have kept our facility’s infection rate at extremely low levels. In addition, they have managed to keep our residents’ spirits at relatively high levels during these challenging times. As you are aware, the staff works tirelessly to keep them connected to friends and family, while always seeking new activities to keep them engaged and stimulated. Beginning in September, in collaboration with Vassar College, several students will be assisting our residents to journal their lives and their significant life events through a course entitled, “Ready Medicine.” The students will meet with participating residents on a weekly basis via FaceTime and will be supervised by our Recreation Dept. staff. We anticipate this will be a mutually beneficial program for the residents, as well as the Vassar students. Finally, weather permitting, our

resident barbeques are held every Wednesday in the courtyard, and if the weather doesn't cooperate, we bring the BBQ to them on the units! Yesterday, following the BBQ, staff served ice cream sundaes to those residents who had any room left!

Our "Window and FaceTime Visits" are available daily. We do request that you schedule your visit in advance so we can ensure there is adequate staff to assist residents to stay connected. Please contact Carolyn by **4 p.m. today** to schedule your weekend "visit." She can be reached at **845-235-8230** or by email at cbrazil@tlcn.org. Unscheduled visits may not be accommodated.

As always, our Unit Managers, Social Workers, and/or the Director of Nursing should be contacted to address any concerns or questions you may have about your loved one.

The entire LCC staff is looking forward to seeing our families and friends again very soon. There is light at the end of the tunnel, so please help ensure it happens--stay healthy, wear a mask, and physical distance whenever possible.

Be well!

Patricia Ludington, RN
Administrator