

## COVID-19 UPDATE

**7-17-2020**

To Our Residents and Family Members:

First and foremost, I would like to share some wonderful news! As mentioned in a previous update, an unannounced focused Infection Control Survey was conducted by the NYS Department of Health at Lutheran Care Center on June 26. Three surveyors conducted an inspection of the facility, including our dedicated COVID-19 section. They reviewed policies and procedures, observed and interviewed our staff, and audited our personal protective equipment (PPE) inventories for adequacy. The results of that inspection were received this week, and I am happy to report that we received NO DEFICIENCIES! I could not be more pleased, and I could not be more proud of the amazing LCC staff that made this possible. It is because of their dedication and commitment that we were able to achieve not only this accomplishment, but also our very low COVID-19 infection rates. Thank you, Lutheran Care Center Healthcare Heroes, for all you do every day for this facility, but most of all, for our residents!!

The total number of New Yorkers testing positive for COVID-19 and virus-related hospitalizations and intubations remains at very low levels. Since our last update, there are no new positive cases in our LCC resident population, and the designated COVID-19 section is empty. One asymptomatic staff person tested positive today and was instructed to quarantine at home, per NYS DOH guidelines. LCC continues to have no COVID-19 related deaths to date.

We will update you regarding visitation and a scheduling system in the upcoming weeks. I want to emphasize that NYS DOH guidelines mandate that any positive COVID-19 test results in residents or staff will delay a facility's visitation privileges. While I recognize that this may result in frustration and disappointment for our families, the decision is out of our hands. In the meantime, please continue to stay connected to your loved one via virtual methods. If you would like to schedule a "window visit" or a FaceTime/SKYPE visit this weekend, please call the Recreation Department at 845-235-8231 or email them at [recreation@tlcn.org](mailto:recreation@tlcn.org) by 4 p.m. today. This will allow us to arrange for adequate staff assistance as excess, "unscheduled" visits may not be accommodated. Please remember to wear your mask, and no contact is permitted with the residents during window visits.

There is still time to sign up to participate in our "Christmas in July Car Parade" celebration. It will be held on Saturday, July 25 beginning at 10:30 a.m. Similar to our previous parade of cars, we are asking our families and friends to assist us with this event by decorating your car with Christmas decorations and to make signs, banners, etc. for your loved ones to enjoy. Parade cars should start lining up at 10 a.m. If you would like more information or want to sign up, please contact Cherie Ferguson at 845-235-8161, or email her at [cferguson@tlcn.org](mailto:cferguson@tlcn.org).

Our Unit Managers, Social Workers and/or the Director of Nursing are available for any concerns or questions you may have about your loved one. For more information on the virus, please visit the CDC and/or the NYS Department of Health websites.

Finally, this week the Governor reminded us that New Yorkers have shown incredible regard for one another throughout the pandemic—that resulted in huge progress in the fight against this virus. But he also said that, now, complacency and a lack of compliance pose a threat to that progress. COVID-19 cases are surging in states across the country. Science has proven consistently that wearing masks is one of the most important things we can all do to reduce the spread of this virus. The Governor emphasized, “Wear a mask and be smart. It’s the only way to continue to keep one another safe.”

If we want resumed visitation in nursing homes, we must be even smarter! Be well and be safe—wear a mask, stay home when not feeling well, and continue to practice physical distancing.

Patricia Ludington, RN  
Administrator