

## **COVID-19 Update**

**5-15-2020**

To Our Residents and Family Members:

Yesterday, Governor Cuomo announced that “Stay at Home” orders have been extended to June 13, 2020 for most New York State residents, including the requirement to wear face masks or coverings in public. In his daily briefing today, he indicated that the number of new COVID-19 cases in New York has declined again, and the curve continues to flatten.

Since our last update on 5/11, Lutheran Care Center is pleased to report NO new cases have been identified, and we continue to have NO outbreaks, and NO COVID-19 related deaths! Yesterday the staff was able to conduct a celebratory “sendoff” to home for one of the original four patients admitted to us from the hospital. Currently, all four of those original residents have either been successfully discharged or transferred off our designated COVID-19 section. Two of four of our own residents that were identified and tested positive in the facility have now tested negative, one remains positive and is isolating in our COVID section, and one remains hospitalized. Of the staff testing positive, three of seven have satisfied NYS DOH “return to work guidelines” and are back with us, and another will be returning on Monday.

As per CDC and NYS DOH guidance, all infection control interventions and internal surveillance to reduce the possibility of an outbreak at the facility are still being implemented. In addition to taking the temperatures of every resident each shift, we screen approximately 150 LCC staff daily prior to permitting entry to our building. Personal protective equipment inventory remains adequate and cleaning and sanitizing of the building has been enhanced.

For the duration of our visitation restrictions, LCC will continue to encourage social distancing by facilitating “virtual visits” and “Window Visits” with your loved ones. Based on your suggestions, in addition to the window screens in the lobby, screens have been removed for improved visualization in these areas:

- 1 South--Each sitting area and the Serenity Room
- 1 North—One of the two sitting rooms.

Please refrain from opening the windows without screens and ensure you wear a mask during window visits. Carolyn Brazil (845-235-8230) and our Unit Managers are here to help you schedule these visits, as necessary. Again, 24-hour advance notice for window visits is greatly appreciated.

Throughout this pandemic, LCC staff has been working tirelessly to care for and help protect our residents. I hope you will join me in recognizing that, while family is unable to visit the facility, our staff is also serving in the role of “family,” and behind each face mask is a “health care hero!”

These facility updates will continue to be provided to you on a weekly basis, unless significant changes require more frequent reporting. Please contact your Unit Manager, Social Worker, or the Director of Nursing for clinical updates, and/or for any resident concerns you may have as they arise. And, for additional information on the virus, we recommend that you visit the CDC and/or the NYS Department of Health websites.

We are all in this together--We are "LCC Strong!"

Patricia Ludington, RN  
Administrator