

COVID-19 UPDATE

5-29-2020

To Our Residents and Family Members:

Since our last update, I am pleased to report that our designated COVID-19 section remains empty, and we have no COVID-19 positive residents in the facility at present. LCC has had no COVID-19 related deaths to date. As reported on Wednesday, three COVID positive residents remain hospitalized—two of those residents will be discharged from the hospital to home. The third resident continues to test positive, currently. Hospitalized residents must test negative for COVID-19 before they are readmitted to the facility. Those residents are admitted to a private room on 2N, or share a room with another returning resident, and they remain there for observation for 14 days.

As I reported to you on Wednesday, baseline testing for our residents was initiated. 120 residents have been tested, and, so far, 70 results were received—all negative! Twice a week mandated staff testing is ongoing—326 staff tests were conducted, producing only one positive result. That staff person continues to isolate at home, and the remaining two previously positive staff have been cleared and will return to work next week.

In his daily briefing today, Governor Cuomo indicated that the number of new COVID-19 cases in New York State dropped dramatically yesterday, and the number of deaths was at its lowest level to date. As we eagerly prepare for the “Phase 2” re-openings, NYS nursing home visitation is slated for one of the “final” phases, so unfortunately, restrictions will remain in place indefinitely.

Despite these visitation restrictions, the staff is working hard to provide new activities and entertainment for our residents. On **Tuesday, 6/2 at 2 p.m.**, we have arranged for a “traveling zoo” to visit the facility. The animals will be located in the parking lot for the residents to enjoy from the sidewalk, allowing for social distancing recommendations to be observed. In addition, on **Saturday, 6/13 at 10:30 a.m.**, we would like to conduct a “drive-by parade” for the residents. In order to make this happen, we are asking our family members to decorate your cars with balloons, streamers, etc. and to drive slowly up our driveway while waving, beeping your horns, and/or holding signs such as “Hi Mom!” for “your” resident! The event will last approximately one hour, and staff will be supervising and directing traffic. If you are interested in signing up for this special event or would like more details, please contact Carolyn at 845-235-8230, or our Nurse Manager, Cherie, at 845-235-8161. This event will be in lieu of window visits that day.

Also, with the warmer weather upon us, we want to encourage more “virtual visits” and “Window Visits” with your loved ones. They want to see you as much as you want to see them. 24-hour advance notice for a window visit is appreciated--and please refrain from opening any windows without screens. Carolyn and our Unit Managers are available to help you schedule these visits, as well as FaceTime and Skype calls, as necessary.

Again, I want to recognize the LCC staff that is working diligently to get through each day, caring for and protecting our residents. Additionally, they are now enduring the less than pleasant diagnostic testing twice a week to ensure they are not spreading the virus to your loved ones. I ask that you join me in honoring these “health care heroes!”

Our Unit Managers, Social Workers, and the Director of Nursing are available to provide you with clinical updates or to discuss any resident concerns you may have as they arise. General information on the virus can be found by visiting the CDC and/or the NYS Department of Health websites.

New York is making progress and will eventually return to what will, more than likely, be “a new normal.” As the Governor reinforced today, “it’s up to us, and it’s up to you” — please help us to get through this by wearing your masks, getting tested, and respecting social distancing recommendations.

Patricia Ludington, RN
Administrator