

## COVID-19 UPDATE

### 2-19-2021 – COVID-19 Updates

Dear Residents and Family Members:

In his daily update yesterday, the Governor announced that positivity rates in NYS were down again, as well as ICU admissions. Emphasis was, of course, placed on keeping our guard up, meaning we must continue to mask and social distance.

Lutheran Care Center's numbers continue to improve, as well. LCC is encouraged by our own COVID statistics this week. Since our last posting, only one resident has tested positive and was transferred to our designated COVID unit for quarantining and monitoring for the next 14 days. Two asymptomatic LCC staff has tested positive this week and were instructed to quarantine at home for the next 14 days. Contact tracing to identify any other residents and/or staff that may have been exposed is in progress, and all results were reported to the NYS and the Dutchess County Departments of Health.

Our most recent vaccine clinic was held on Wednesday, 2/10. An additional 43 residents and 33 staff received their second dose of the COVID vaccine. We are accepting between one and three new residents daily after rapid COVID testing yields a negative result and no symptoms are exhibited.

As always, LCC is proactive in our approach to healthcare and preventing infection. The facility recently volunteered for an audit of our infection control procedures by an IPRO contractor. IPRO is a non-profit organization that works with government agencies, providers and patients to implement innovative programs to make the healthcare system work better. The auditor arrived yesterday and had no specific recommendations. She complimented the facility on cleanliness, PPE usage, hand hygiene, and she stated that our clean utility rooms were the most organized she has ever seen! Thank you to the auditor, but the real thanks goes to our LCC healthcare heroes that make these survey results possible. It is their hard work every day that enables us to receive these accolades and to maintain our Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) "Overall 5-Star rating."

On the subject of gratefulness, I have mentioned in the past that I am humbled by the outpouring of support we have received from so many families as LCC navigates this pandemic. Last week, a letter was received from a family member that lost their loved one to COVID-19 that brought tears to my eyes. It mentioned by name all the staff that personally cared for the resident, as well as every department that helped to make their loved one's stay at LCC so wonderful, including: Housekeeping, Activities, Pastoral Care, Dietary, and even the Business Office. The family member ended the letter by saying that they felt "God led them to LCC, and our staff was God's hands." Our resident is greatly missed by all of us, but we are comforted to know that the resident is truly in God's hands now. Thank you to this family and all our wonderful families. We are honored to care for your loved ones.

Lent began this week, and on Ash Wednesday Chaplain Kelly Ray distributed ashes to residents and staff that wanted to receive them. Again, out of an abundance of caution, a cotton tip swab was used to avoid physical contact with each recipient, and hand hygiene was performed between each person. This year in particular, our residents were so glad that we devised a safe way to allow this important religious tradition to be observed.

Our Nurse Managers, Social Workers and Nursing administration are available to assist you, as needed. In addition, Carolyn can facilitate helping you stay connected to your loved ones, so please contact her for an appointment. Our most current COVID-19 resident and staff statistics are honestly and accurately disclosed here, so please monitor this website regularly for changes and updates.

Stay safe and be well.

Patricia Ludington, RN  
Administrator