

COVID-19 Update

5-22-2020

To Our Residents and Family Members:

In an address this week, Governor Cuomo announced that the state's Coronavirus outbreak has slowed to levels not seen since the beginning of the pandemic in March. He also reported the number of fatalities, rates of new infections, and the daily number of Covid-19 related hospitalizations all continue to fall.

Lutheran Care Center is again pleased to report NO new facility-onset cases identified since 5/15, NO outbreaks, and NO COVID-19 related deaths to date. This week, we conducted celebratory sendoffs for two more residents--one of them a Centenarian—with music and signage, "LCC Helped Me Beat COVID-19!!" Currently, only one resident remains in our COVID-19 section, pending results of a second negative test, and one resident is hospitalized. In addition to our two previously "positive" staff, one new staff member tested positive last week, and all three remaining are currently isolating at home. Return to work is determined by NYS DOH guidelines.

As many of you are aware, despite parts of NYS beginning a regional phased reopening plan, visitation restrictions at NYS nursing homes are still in effect in order to protect the most vulnerable population. We want to assure you that LCC is enforcing those restrictions, and visitation remains limited to imminent end-of-life situations which will require administrative approval. Safeguarding the health of our residents and staff is a priority, so our efforts to limit COVID-19 exposure and to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the facility are aggressive. In addition, our staff testing began this week in compliance with the Governor's May 10th Executive Order requiring all NYS nursing home staff to be tested twice a week for COVID-19 via nasal or throat swabs. We conducted testing on 175 staff members and will continue to do so until further notice. Ongoing adherence to these criteria will help maintain resident safety.

LCC is supporting social distancing by encouraging "virtual visits" and "Window Visits" with your loved ones. Additional window screens were removed in select locations for enhanced visibility. Carolyn and our Unit Managers will provide assistance to arrange visits--please call 845-235-8230, **or 845-235-8231**, and if possible, 24-hour advance notice for a window visit is greatly appreciated. Again, please ensure you are wearing your mask when you "visit."

Each week, I am proud to take this opportunity to publicly thank the LCC "health care heroes" for putting the health of our residents above all else. They are here every day because they can't "work from home!" Their courage, caring, and compassion during these unprecedented times will carry us through this crisis and make LCC even stronger.

Weekly website updates will continue to be provided to you, unless significant changes require more frequent reporting. Please do not hesitate to contact your Unit Manager, Social Worker, or the Director of Nursing for clinical updates, and/or any resident concerns you may

have as they arise. If you would like additional information on the virus, we recommend that you visit the CDC and/or the NYS Department of Health websites.

Finally, thank you for your support and encouragement as we navigate through this pandemic. You can help our residents by staying home when possible and wearing your masks!!

Happy Memorial Day!

Patricia Ludington, RN
Administrator