

COVID-19 UPDATE

8-14-2020

To Our Residents and Family Members:

As you are aware, we received some disappointing news last week when an asymptomatic staff person tested positive for COVID-19. In accordance with NYS DOH guidance, that positive result requires a delay of 28 days for visitation privileges to be reinstated at LCC. Earlier this week, the Governor extended weekly testing requirements for all NYS nursing home staff until at least early September. Updates on resident and staff testing results will be posted on this website as they become available.

Even though LCC experienced a minor setback last week, the Governor reinforced that it is especially encouraging that, even as New York's testing capacity has gone up, daily new cases of COVID have dropped. LCC has had no new COVID positive cases within our resident or staff population since our last update. Our designated COVID-19 section remains empty, and we have had no COVID-19 related deaths since the start of the pandemic. New Yorkers testing positive and virus-related hospitalization numbers continue to remain at some of the lowest levels to date.

We do want to make you aware that, currently, we have a small cluster of residents on one unit who are being treated for upper respiratory symptoms. Our physicians are aware, as is our Medical Director, and those cases were reported to both the NYS and Dutchess County Departments of Health. The affected residents were tested for COVID-19, and the results were negative. Several other residents have also been tested as a precautionary measure, and the results are pending. Family members of those residents have already been notified. We are following DOH guidance, and all staff on that unit has been instructed to maintain a heightened awareness for residents with even minor symptoms and to report them to the Physician and our Infection Preventionist immediately. All LCC staff don masks and are increasing their frequency of hand washing and hand sanitizing. The affected unit is closed to non-essential staff, and residents residing on the affected unit will be required to remain on the unit to contain the spread. Cleaning and disinfecting schedules, using EPA approved chemical cleaning agents, have been increased. Please visit this website for any changes.

While we cannot resume "in person" visitation at this point, we hope you will continue to utilize our "Window and FaceTime Visits" which are available daily. Scheduling your visit in advance enables us to provide adequate staff to assist your loved ones to stay connected to family and friends. Please contact Carolyn by **4 p.m. today** to schedule your weekend "visit." She can be reached at **845-235-8230**, or by email at cbrazil@tlcn.org. While we do our best to manage all requests, unscheduled visits may not be accommodated. **South side residents must remain on their units, so "window visits" for 1 and 2 South residents are canceled, until further notice.** We

will alert you as soon as test results for 1 South residents are received, and/or symptomatic residents on 2 South are resolved.

Throughout this pandemic, our interdisciplinary team of Unit Managers, Social Workers, and/or the Director of Nursing have welcomed the opportunity to address your concerns or questions regarding your loved one. Please feel free to continue to contact them for assistance. And, once again, please join me in thanking all the LCC staff for their herculean efforts during these difficult times. They are not only keeping our infection rate at impressively low levels, but they are also filling the roles of family and friends for our residents.

Finally, I want to share with you the advice of the top federal health official at the CDC who yesterday reinforced the need for all of us “to do four simple things to win the war on COVID-19:”

- Wear a mask
- Physical distance
- Wash your hands, and
- Be smart about crowds!

Patricia Ludington, RN
Administrator