

## COVID-19 UPDATES

### 11/13/2020 – STAFF POSITIVES—VISITATION MUST REMAIN POSTPONED

Dear Residents and Family Members:

Staying positive these days is getting more challenging—no pun intended. Yesterday, Governor Cuomo announced that COVID-19 is raging nationally and setting record numbers of cases and hospitalizations. As the experts predicted, the Fall surge is here. 2.95% was the positivity rate of testing done yesterday in New York State which does not include cluster areas where the rate is much higher.

As we know, COVID-19 does not discriminate—last evening Lutheran Care Center received positive test results for six (6) staff persons—one symptomatic and five asymptomatic. As usual, protocol was followed, and these staff persons, as well as the NYS DOH, were informed of their results and instructed to quarantine at home for 14 days. The facility will be conducting contact tracing to identify any staff or residents who might have been exposed to these staff during the incubation period. In addition, our residents that are experiencing upper respiratory symptoms on one unit are doing well currently. While we await results of COVID testing for them, they will be continuously monitored and remain on precautions for 14 days. Also, all LCC residents are being tested, and all residents that tested negative will be retested every 3 to 7 days until testing identifies no new cases of COVID-19 infection among staff or residents for a period of at least 14 days since our most recent positive results.

In compliance with CDC and NYS DOH guidance, all infection control interventions and internal surveillance to reduce the likelihood of an outbreak in this facility are being implemented. In addition to daily screening and temperature monitoring upon entry to the facility, diagnostic testing of all our staff is conducted weekly, per Executive Order. COVID-19 test kits are delivered to us on a regular basis by the NYS DOH. LCC staff dons masks at all times in the facility, and we maintain a 60-day inventory of personal protective equipment (PPE). Hand washing and sanitizing reminders are visibly posted throughout the building, while enhanced cleaning and sanitizing of high-touch surfaces is ongoing by Environmental Services staff. Finally, out of an abundance of caution, **all recreational activities have been suspended for the weekend**, and residents are being requested to remain in their rooms.

The Thanksgiving midday menu has been finalized and will include turkey with gravy and stuffing, sweet potatoes, green bean casserole, cranberry sauce, and to finish it off, pumpkin or apple pie! Just in case, we are also offering macaroni and cheese as an alternate for any resident that is not a turkey fan. Also on the menu—gratefulness—that most of our residents remain healthy and that our LCC healthcare heroes are doing everything they can to make that happen!

Now more than ever, we need your assistance to help our residents stay connected to loved ones, utilizing the only options available to us currently. Please take advantage of “window visits” and FaceTime and/or Skype visits by contacting **Chris or Sharon at 845-235-8230 or 845-235-8231, as soon as possible** to schedule your virtual visit. **Due to current restrictions, window visits are available only to residents on 1N and 1S from their own rooms this weekend. Residents on 2N and 2S will be limited to “virtual visits only” this weekend.** Thanksgiving Day virtual

**and window visits are also being scheduled now**, so please contact Carolyn and/or the Recreation Dept. to secure your appointment.

All staff, including the Director of Nursing, Nurse Managers and Social Workers, is available to answer resident-specific questions or to provide any support that you may need. During these trying times, and especially as the holiday season approaches, if you are struggling, remember, any New Yorker can call the **COVID-19 Emotional Support Hotline at 1-844-863-9314 for mental health counseling.**

The Governor reinforced that, once again, what happens next is a pure consequence of our actions now. The next few weeks will be crucial, and people need to buckle down to fend off the worst. If there is a time to show that we are New York Tough, it's now! Wear a mask. Get tested. Avoid group gatherings when possible. Stop the spread.

Stay well.

Patricia Ludington, RN  
Administrator