

## COVID-19 UPDATE

**8-28-2020**

Dear Residents and Family Members:

Lutheran Care Center received another Covid positive result for a staff person yesterday. The asymptomatic employee was made aware and was instructed to quarantine at home for 14 days. The NYS DOH has also been notified, and the facility will be conducting contact tracing to identify any staff or residents who might have been exposed to the employee during the incubation period.

As you are aware, your frustrations have not gone unheard. We will continue to advocate for our families by requesting that the NYS Department of Health nursing home requirement of “28 days Covid free” for visitation be reviewed and revised, and/or, at a minimum, that Lutheran Care Center be approved for outdoor visitation. Through our advocacy, we have learned that we are far from alone. Other regions in NYS are also unable to meet this stringent requirement with only 4 of 77 nursing homes in Western New York State eligible for resumed visitation.

On a brighter note, we have had no recent “COVID positive” results for any residents, and our residents with non-Covid related respiratory issues are doing well! Our dedicated COVID unit has been empty for several weeks now. Heightened infection control measures and adequate staffing are allowing us to achieve these results and mitigate the impact of this virus. We have a 60-day supply of essential PPE on hand, including: N-95 masks, surgical masks, face shields, gowns, and gloves. Our staff is rigorously screened for symptoms each time they enter the building and increased frequency of cleaning and disinfection of the facility has been ongoing since the start of the pandemic. Everything we are able to do to keep your loved ones safe is being done.

Facilitating “virtual visiting” for our families is the best option we can offer currently. Please help us by contacting **Sharon in Recreation at Ext. 231 or 845-235-8231 by 4 p.m. today** to schedule your Window and FaceTime visits. Carolyn returns on Monday, 8/31 and will resume oversight of “visitation.” Planning for another “car parade” is in the works, as well—details will be posted here when confirmed.

If you have any resident-specific questions or concerns, please contact our Director of Nursing, Nurse Managers, or our Social Workers for assistance. They, in addition to all our staff, understand the impact COVID-19 has had on our families and our residents and want to do whatever they can to ease your burdens.

Yesterday, New York State marked the 20th straight day of an infection rate less than one percent. Vigilant mask wearing, handwashing, and physical distancing have gotten us to this point. Please stay focused and continue to do your part so nursing home visitation in New York can resume soon.

Stay well and be safe!

Patricia Ludington, RN  
Administrator