

## COVID-19 UPDATE

### 3-26-2021 – COVID Positive Result—VISITATION CLARIFICATION!

Dear Residents and Family Members:

Our ongoing testing of staff identified one new positive result today. That staff person was informed and instructed to quarantine at home for 14 days. Contact tracing to identify any other residents and/or staff that may have been exposed is in progress, and all results will be reported to the NYS and the Dutchess County Departments of Health.

We have been fielding numerous calls today regarding the NYS Department of Health's announcement that they are aligning themselves with CMS guidance related to visitation in NYS nursing homes. Unfortunately, the story that aired on news outlets today did not present all the details of that announcement. As you know, this facility is, and has always been transparent about our COVID-19 statistics. We have reported several positive staff cases this week—the DOH identifies even **ONE NEW** positive result as an "outbreak." So, LCC is deemed to be in an outbreak currently. In light of the revised guidance, we contacted them this a.m., and they confirmed that we may **NOT** resume visitation at this time. An outbreak requires house-wide testing of all residents to ensure that there are no more cases in the facility. When the results of that testing are received, and no new cases are identified, we can resume visitation. I know that this news is probably more frustrating now than ever, however, we must abide by NYS DOH regulations.

While we are unable to conduct unrestricted visitation at this time, we have decided to resume our "window visits" this weekend. Units 1 North and 1 South residents will be able to participate in window visits from their own units, and Unit 2 South residents will utilize the lobby windows for any scheduled window visits. Newly admitted 2 North residents that have completed their 14-day quarantine period may also utilize the lobby windows for scheduled visits. As always, please contact Carolyn as soon as possible to schedule an appointment, if you would like to "window visit."

We will convene again on Monday to evaluate the situation and advise you of developments via this website. Again, I am so sorry that the news outlets do not always provide all the details, often setting families up for more disappointment. This topic is front and center for LCC, so we will update you as soon as possible.

Until unrestricted visitation is resumed, FaceTime, Zoom and Skype, in addition to "window visits" are available. Our Nurse Managers, Social Workers, and the Director and Assistant Director of Nursing are also available to provide you with information. Thank you for understanding that these decisions and restrictions from the NYS DOH are out of our control.

Please be safe, avoid crowds, get vaccinated when you are able, and always wear your mask.

Patricia Ludington, RN  
Administrator