

COVID-19 UPDATE

7-13-2020

To Our Residents and Family Members:

As many of you have already heard, on 7/10/20 the New York State Department of Health issued guidance, permitting very limited visitation in New York State nursing homes. While this is encouraging news, there are numerous restrictions and a number of requirements that facilities must meet in order to resume visitation. We were only made aware of this development on Friday, so we have just begun to strategize an effective reopening plan that will not only facilitate visitation, but will also mitigate the risk of a resurgence of COVID-19.

Once a nursing home meets all the DOH's criteria for resuming visitation, there are a number of guidelines that must be implemented by the facility that you should understand:

1. Visitation will be limited to **outdoor areas**; Alternate sites for inclement weather are being evaluated.
2. **No visitation in resident rooms** or care areas is permitted;
3. No more than 10 percent (10%) of the total number of residents may have visitors at any one time. (In order to comply with this requirement, visitors must schedule an appointment to visit. Visitation will be very limited each day.);
4. A maximum of two (2) visitors will be allowed per resident at any one time;
5. All visitors must be screened for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 prior to resident access. The nursing home must refuse visitation if the individual exhibits any COVID-19 symptoms, or does not pass the screening questions;
6. Screening questions will include questions regarding international travel, or travel to other states designated under the Commissioner's travel advisory;
7. For tracing purposes, documentation for each visitor must include: full name, address, daytime and evening phone numbers, email address if available, and date and time of visit;
8. Approved visitors, as well as the resident they are visiting, must wear facemasks that cover both the nose and mouth during visitation;
9. Visitors must maintain physical distancing of six (6) feet from the resident and each other, except when assisting with wheelchair mobility; Applicable floor markings must be used;
10. **No physical contact is permitted with the residents**;
11. Frequent hand hygiene will be required for both residents and visitors;
12. Areas used for visitation must be cleaned and disinfected after each visit;
13. Hours of visitation will be clearly delineated and will be limited to a specific duration;
14. Visitors that violate any of these guidelines will be prohibited from visiting the facility for the duration of the COVID-19 state declared public health emergency.

In addition, it is crucial that you understand that visitation may not commence in a nursing home until the facility has had no new onset cases of COVID-19 among staff

or residents for a period of **no less than twenty-eight (28) days**. Utilizing this guideline, the earliest we could consider resuming visitation at LCC would be the **last week of July**. Also, please be aware that any new onset cases of COVID-19 that develop will require suspension of visitation for another 28 days from the date of identification of the new case, so an implementation date for visitation will be subject to change!

Based on all of these restrictions, we recommend that you continue to visit your loved ones using the virtual methods we have in place currently, including window visits, FaceTime and Skype. As always, scheduling can be arranged with Carolyn, and/or the Recreation Department.

We cannot provide you with facility specifics at this time, but we will continue to update you as soon as we formalize our plans for visitation, including development of a system for scheduling that will be fair to all our residents and families, and submit the completed plan to the NYSDOH. Please be advised that the DOH may halt visitation at a nursing home, at any time, due to community or facility spread of the COVID-19 infection, or if the Department identifies that the facility has fallen out of compliance with any of the requirements outlined in this DOH advisory.

For more information on skilled nursing facility visitation, please visit the NYS Department of Health website.

As always, please continue to stay home when not feeling well, get tested, and respect physical distancing guidelines. And, most importantly, wear a mask if you cannot maintain the recommended distance from others.

Patricia Ludington, RN
Administrator