**COVID-19 UPDATE**

**6-4-2021**

Dear Residents and Family Members:

NYS COVID-19 statistics continue to decline, and the positivity rate in every region is below 1.5%. As of June 1, 57.1 percent of adult New Yorkers were reported to have completed their vaccine series. The decline in COVID cases has been directly attributed to vaccine effectiveness, so if you have not yet been vaccinated, please consider doing so as soon as possible.

Lutheran Care Center has not had a positive case in more than 2 months, and with most of our residents and many staff fully vaccinated, we have made the decision to expand visitation privileges for our families. Visiting hours will remain the same, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, and no appointment is necessary. In order to accommodate visitors in the event of inclement weather, we will be facilitating visitation in the Dining/Day Rooms on each unit. In an effort to avoid overcrowding, we do request that you **limit your visit to one hour**. We are hopeful that this will enable more family members to visit while still maintaining the recommended physical distancing. Of course, when weather permits, we encourage you to take advantage of our outdoor seating on the North Side Courtyard, as well as both sides of the entrance to the main lobby. You are welcome to pick up your loved one on the unit and bring them outside to enjoy the fresh air and, hopefully, warmer weather. We will continue our current screening process in the lobby, and when you are inside the building, **it is required that masks be worn at all times to protect our vulnerable residents.**

Please be advised that our unvaccinated new admissions will be placed on transmission based precautions and are not eligible for visitors for a period of 10 days. During that time, virtual visits can be arranged to stay connected to your loved ones. Carolyn will be happy to assist you with scheduling.

Dedication of our new “Memorial Garden” will be held on Saturday, 6/19/21 at 10 a.m. on the North Side courtyard. Following the ceremony, light refreshments will be served as we remember those residents and staff that are no longer here with us. The “Rain Date” for this event will be Saturday, 6/26/21.

Stay safe, wear your mask, and remember, if you haven’t done so already, please take advantage of the now readily available vaccines. Have a good weekend!

Patricia Ludington, RN

Administrator