

COVID-19 UPDATE

7-24-2020

To Our Residents and Family Members:

Hopefully by this time, most of you received the letter regarding resumption of visitation in NYS nursing homes. The conditions and guidelines imposed by the NYS Department of Health were outlined, including the requirement that a facility have no COVID-19 positive resident or staff cases for 28 days before any visitation may commence. Based on our latest testing results, LCC will not be able to resume visitation until at least the middle of August—provided no more residents or staff test positive. Each positive test will result in the delay of a resumption date.

These visitation guidelines will require significant strategizing on our part to create a fair and manageable system. We hope to utilize the 1 North Courtyard for outdoor visits, and we are preparing the Adult Day Health Services space for use during inclement weather. We will be restricting in-person individual visits to 30 minutes on Mondays through Fridays only, provided you have an appointment. The procedure for “Window Visits” and FaceTime/Skype visits will remain the same on the weekends. We will provide more details for resumption of visitation as we get closer to our targeted start date.

New York virus-related hospitalizations and intubation numbers remain at some of the lowest levels to date. Results of New Yorkers testing positive for COVID-19 has been approximately one percent of those tested. Since our last update, there are no new positive cases in our LCC resident or staff population, and the designated COVID-19 section is empty. There have been no COVID-19 related deaths to date at our facility.

While New Yorkers have successfully flattened the curve and lowered the infection rate, there have been increasing infection rates across the country. The Commissioner of the NYS Department of Health has issued new regulations for nursing homes due to concerns that the impact of that spread could lead to an uptick in new cases in New York. Learning from previous shortages, nursing homes in NYS will be required to have a 60-day supply of essential PPE available by September 30, including: N-95 masks, surgical masks, face shields, gowns, and gloves. The NYS DOH will continue to monitor our progress toward this goal of protecting our residents and our staff in the event of another COVID crisis.

The “Christmas in July Car Parade” celebration that was to be held this Saturday, July 25 has been **CANCELED!** Our clinical team made the determination that it may be unsafe to have our residents outdoors in the oppressive weather predicted for Saturday. We hope to reschedule the event later in the year when the weather will be more pleasant. We apologize for any inconvenience but must put our residents’ well-being first.

Since the “Christmas Parade” is canceled, we will be scheduling “Window Visits” per usual this weekend, including Saturday. There have been reports of several family members arriving for our window visits without a scheduled appointment. Due to the popularity of this

activity, we strongly suggest that you schedule your visit in advance, each day, to be fair to all family members, as well as our staff, who assist residents to ensure they are “visitor ready.” Please contact Carolyn by **4 p.m. today** to schedule your “visit.” She can be reached at **845-235-8230** or by email at [**cbrazil@tlcn.org**](mailto:cbrazil@tlcn.org).

All Unit Managers, Social Workers, and/or the Director of Nursing are available for any specific concerns or questions you may have about your loved one. Please visit the CDC and/or the NYS Department of Health websites for more information on the virus.

Governor Cuomo reminded us this week that while New York’s infection rate declines, there is always a threat of an increase, if New Yorkers become lax. This threat can only be managed by New Yorkers acting responsibly together. So, as I remind you each week, if visitation is to resume in nursing homes, we have to stay focused—practice physical distancing, stay home if you are not feeling well, and most importantly, wear a mask!

Be safe and be well!

Patricia Ludington, RN
Administrator