

COVID-19 UPDATES

11/19/2020 –VISITATION REMAINS POSTPONED

Dear Residents and Family Members:

As COVID-19 cases surge throughout the United States, last week I started our family website update by indicating how difficult it is to remain positive these days. Today, however, Lutheran Care Center has some very positive news to convey. On Tuesday, 11/17, we started the day off with another unannounced infection control inspection of our facility by the NYS DOH that included: staff interviews and care observations, policy and procedure reviews, medical record reviews, and audits of our personal protective equipment inventory. The good news—similar to the last two inspection results—no infection control deficiencies were identified by the focus team! Proud doesn't even begin to describe how I feel about our staff that makes these results possible. While healthcare workers are overwhelmed in so many facilities currently, LCC staff works tirelessly each and every day to care for our residents and to keep this virus out of our facility as much as possible. As Thanksgiving nears, I'm reminded of all I'm grateful for year-round, and that includes our own healthcare heroes—heartfelt thanks for all you do for LCC!

Governor Cuomo announced that New York State's COVID-19 hospitalizations are up again, and the positivity rate earlier this week, excluding micro-cluster areas, has risen to over 3.10 percent. While this is not good news, NYS still has one of the nation's lowest positivity rates. We are cautiously relieved to report that LCC has had no new resident or staff positive results since our last update on 11/13, and those residents that were experiencing minor respiratory symptoms, have all tested negative for COVID-19 and continue to show improvement.

As you are all aware, COVID-19 will not be taking off for the holidays this year, and prominent infectious disease experts are recommending that your gatherings remain limited to only your immediate family "bubble" during the ongoing public health emergency. LCC must continue to operate in a culture of safety, so please plan on celebrating with your loved ones virtually, utilizing FaceTime and/or Skype visits. We already have a number of scheduled appointments, but we will do everything we can to accommodate any family member that would like to connect with a resident during the Thanksgiving weekend. **Carolyn and her Recreation team are spearheading these appointments, so contact her as soon as possible at 845-235-8230 or 845-235-8231, to schedule your virtual holiday visit.**

In addition to caring for your loved ones, the staff wants to do whatever they can to support you, our families, during these difficult times. Anita, our Director of Nursing and the Nurse Managers and Social Workers are available to assist you with your concerns.

A spokesperson from one our long term care associations recently confirmed that had community spread been contained, older adults and the people who care for them wouldn't be far from the people they love this holiday. Do your part: Get tested. If possible, physical distance, and most importantly, wear a mask! Stop the spread. Stay well.

Patricia Ludington, RN
Administrator