**COVID-19 UPDATE**

**5-7-2021**

Dear Residents and Family Members:

Yesterday, it was reported that New York State’s 7-day average COVID positivity rate was 1.62 percent, the lowest since November 3. This is certainly welcome news, as is the fact that Lutheran Care Center has had no positive resident and/or staff cases in more than five weeks! While restrictions all over the country are being lifted, and we are beginning to resume our pre-COVID lives, we must proceed cautiously—so continue to do your part and help keep this trend going. Recognizing this progress, the NYS DOH has reduced the mandatory quarantine period for new and re-admissions to skilled nursing facilities from 14 days to 10 days!

As “National Nurses Week” comes to a close, I want to take this opportunity to celebrate our own LCC nursing staff—RN’s, LPN’s, CNA’s, NP’s, as well as our Nursing Directors! I was watching the News yesterday morning, and one of the networks was honoring some nurses who have been front and center during this pandemic. Someone commented that nurses have been the “heroes these last 15 months.” While I am so grateful that nurses are being acknowledged for their crucial COVID-19 roles, I am disappointed that it took a pandemic for the work nurses do every day, 24/7, to be fully recognized. There is no “work from home” for nurses. They are on the frontlines, doing what they do best—treating, healing, caring! Please join me in honoring LCC’s nursing staff--and all nurses--for their tireless efforts, as they have always been, and always will be heroes! Thank you, LCC Nursing Staff!!!

We honored our nurses, so now let’s celebrate “National Skilled Nursing Care Week!” This year’s theme is Through the Seasons, and kicking off the week, we will be honoring Mothers!! Sunday, 5/9 is Mother’s Day, and each Mom will receive a long-stemmed flower while enjoying a chicken cordon bleu entrée, served with rice pilaf, fresh asparagus, and cheese cake with berry coulis for dessert! There will be entertainment at 2 p.m. and, hopefully, lots of “children” visiting our resident Moms!

The rest of the week’s activities are as follows:

**Monday**: Tie Dye Day—staff will don tie-dye attire and join a resident for lunch or a walk.

**Tuesday**: Winter Blessings—red and green outfits, snowball-making, and wintery snacks.

**Weds**: Spring says Baseball—wear your favorite team’s tee shirt/cap while munching on popcorn. Fingers crossed for a chance to win a gift card in the special raffle!

**Thurs**: Summer Fun—summer clothes, ice cream treats for all, and afternoon entertainment.

**Friday**: Fall Festivities—flannel-wear and a special apple treat!

Finally, special thanks to our staff, family members, and the community that organized, donated, participated or just attended to make our May 1st “Memorial Garden” fundraiser such a success!

Please contact the LCC Receptionist as soon as possible to schedule your appointment, as we anticipate more visitors than usual this weekend. FaceTime, Zoom and Skype are available for those that are unable to visit—Carolyn will assist you with those appointments, as usual.

Celebrate safely this weekend, and a very Happy Mother’s Day to you and yours!

Patricia Ludington, RN

Administrator