

COVID-19 UPDATE

9-18-2020

Dear Residents and Family Members:

Wednesday marked Day 200 of the COVID-19 crisis. It's been a long time coming, but we are eager to welcome families and friends back as Lutheran Care Center was approved for resumed visitation today.

Announcement of the guidelines that nursing homes must follow to permit visitation were posted on the website yesterday. That resulted in several questions from our families, so I will try to clarify what we know. Please keep in mind that guidance is revised almost as quickly as it is issued. It is confusing for all of us.

All directives we posted regarding visitors' proof of testing, visitor screening, masks requirement, and physical distancing were issued by the New York State Department of Health. The guidelines are stringent, and compliance with them, as written, is necessary, if we want to maintain our visitation privileges. These are not LCC issued guidelines, and while they may appear onerous, the revised visitation parameters are much more reasonable.

While the weather this week is very cool for our residents, especially in the mornings, we will consider offering outdoor visits on milder days—this is still in the planning stage. However, this will not affect any of the requirements issued by the DOH. Until we are alerted otherwise, they are non-negotiable and will be enforced, without exception.

As we discussed in previous communications, having no symptoms of COVID-19 is not indicative of being virus-free. Many individuals have no symptoms but test positive, as was the case with most of our staff that have tested positive. This is the rationale behind the requirement to present a negative COVID test before visitation is allowed. We will await further guidance from DOH on this issue, but for now, we must assume you will need to continue to be tested for subsequent visits.

Hopefully this information clarifies NYS DOH guidance for you. Visitation is resumed here, effective today. If all the requirements are met, and you wish to schedule your visit, please contact **Diane Archibald directly at 845-235-8104**, or call the facility's main number at **845-486-9494, Ext.104** to schedule a visit. Alternatives for visitation are still available via FaceTime, Skype and/or window visits. These methods will be utilized exclusively in the evenings and on the weekends, until further notice. As usual, please contact Carolyn at **Ext. 231, or 845-235-8231 by 4 pm. today** to arrange your virtual weekend visit.

The **Family Fall Festival Car Parade** will take place on Saturday, September 26, beginning at 10:30 a.m., and cars should start lining up at 10 a.m. Fall-themed snacks will be available for your enjoyment after the parade. If you are interested in participating, please use the contact information above to RSVP to Carolyn at your earliest convenience.

If you have any resident-specific questions or concerns, please contact our Director of Nursing, Nurse Managers, or our Social Workers for assistance. Resumption of visitation is the goal we all hoped to achieve, and we have done it! While I know you are all excited to see your loved ones,

please join me, again, in thanking the “LCC Healthcare Heroes” who worked so hard to facilitate that goal by keeping our residents safe and happy while they awaited your return! Heartfelt thanks to all our staff for what they do every day!

Be safe, wear your masks, maintain physical distance, get tested, and welcome back!

Patricia Ludington, RN
Administrator