

LUTHERAN CARE CENTER

September 25, 2023—Covid Positive Residents and Staff

MASK MANDATE IN EFFECT IMMEDIATELY

Dear Residents and Family Members:

The Covid scourge continues...our robust contact tracing has identified several more residents that are testing positive for Covid over the last 24-48 hours, bringing the total now to 13. The affected residents are still contained to one unit and have been placed on transmission-based precautions. In addition, we now have a total of three staff persons that tested positive for Covid-19 who are isolating at home. All cases have been reported to the NYS and local Departments of Health, and we are in regular contact with their epidemiologists. Our contact tracing is guided by the most current recommendations from the CDC and the DOH.

As you may have suspected, our Infection Control Committee convened this morning and, in the best interest of our residents and staff, determined that it is time to activate **mandatory masking** in the facility. Many facilities have been doing it for weeks, and many more will be implementing them shortly. All LCC staff will be masked while on duty and **anyone visiting the facility will be required to have a well-fitting mask in place inside the building**. There will be a supply at the front entrance should anyone need an extra. In addition, to minimize exposure to unaffected residents and staff, all recreational activities will be conducted separately on each unit to avoid resident and staff comingling. Our environmental staff is increasing cleaning and disinfectant use in high traffic areas, as well as on all units.

Again, if you are feeling unwell, or if you have any of the symptoms of a respiratory illness, I urge you NOT to visit the facility. As the virus evolves, initial symptoms of Covid have also evolved from previous strains. Current symptoms noted include congestion, sometimes sneezing, and usually a mild sore throat. The sore throat may occur first, followed by the congestion. But any upper respiratory symptoms or fever should be evaluated to avoid confusion with allergy symptoms.

If you are concerned about possible exposure to someone that was recently positive or sick, please notify the receptionist. We will do a rapid test for you at the facility entrance if you don't have access to one currently. Our virtual visitation is available to stay connected to your loved one if you are unable to visit in person.

If you have any questions, please contact your nurse manager or our social workers for more information and check this site frequently for updates. Stay well!

Pat Ludington, RN
Administrator