

COVID-19 UPDATES

12/14/2020 –VISITATION REMAINS POSTPONED

Dear Residents and Family Members:

In yesterday's update, we informed you of positive COVID-19 test results for several residents. I am aware that this must surely be of concern to our families. This additional update is being provided to, hopefully, allay some of those concerns. Governor Cuomo reinforced that, as expected, COVID-19 cases are surging across the nation, so we are not shocked that we have had an increase in cases. On the bright side, those residents are being closely monitored, and only one has very mild symptoms currently. We are in contact with the NYS and the Dutchess County Departments of Health and are following all recommendations. As an extra layer of reassurance for you, I want to reinforce that no deficits were identified in any of the three unannounced DOH focused infection control surveys conducted at LCC since the start of the pandemic.

LCC is ensuring that all COVID positive residents are quarantining in the designated COVID hallway, and they and their roommates, if applicable, have been placed on contact and droplet precautions. All residents that tested negative will be retested every 3 days to 7 days until testing identifies no new cases of infection among staff or residents for a period of at least 14 days since the most recent positive test results. PPE, including gowns and gloves, are disposed of between every resident interaction and not reused. Contact tracing of staff that has been in close contact with the residents is being completed. Our Environmental Services Department has increased the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting of high touch areas. All staff in the facility is donning masks and eye protection. Hand washing and hygiene products are plentiful and available in resident rooms, as well as in highly visible areas throughout the building for staff use. Staff completes a questionnaire and is subject to a temperature check each and every time they enter the building. All long term units are closed except to direct care staff, and lobby window visits are suspended.

Even if they are quarantining, we continue to encourage virtual visits with your loved ones. Staff in the COVID section is available to assist any resident with that technology. Residents are provided with stimulating activities such as puzzles, word games, books, magazines, TV, music, and the Recreation staff is alerted if a resident requests a specific item for entertainment purposes.

As you are undoubtedly aware, a COVID vaccine just received approval, and healthcare workers and nursing home residents are expected to be first in line to receive it. LCC is registered with the "Pharmacy Partnership Program" and is assigned to partner with Walgreens for our supply of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. **LCC residents and staff are slated to receive the first dose of the two-step dose vaccine between 12/21/20 and 1/21/21 and the second dose 21 days later.** Any additional information about the rollout from the Department of Health will be posted via this forum and email notifications.

The Nurse Managers, our Social Workers and the Director of Nursing are always available to assist with your resident-specific questions or concerns, so contact them for any support you require.

Finally, I am humbled by all the families that have written to acknowledge their appreciation for our efforts during these extremely difficult times. Your continued support makes these challenges a little easier for me and the LCC staff. Thank you, and please be safe.

Patricia Ludington, RN
Administrator