

## Weekly Update

4-24-2020

To Our Residents and Family Members:

Like all New Yorker's, Lutheran Care Center (LCC) is encouraged to see that COVID-19 infection rates and hospitalizations have leveled off over the past several days. We realize that you may have seen recent news articles about COVID-19 deaths and outbreaks in some nursing homes, but we are, again, pleased to report that our facility has experienced neither. Currently, there are a few staff members that tested positive, but they are isolating at home and will return when they have met the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and NYS Department of Health (NYSDOH) return to work criteria. We are not out of the woods yet, but we are closely monitoring the condition of all our residents and staff and are working diligently to prevent an outbreak.

We maintain close communication with our Medical Director and the NYSDOH and are adhering to the most up to date CDC guidelines for managing these patients. The number of COVID-19 patients we are treating remains unchanged from last week. They are making significant progress in Rehab, and testing results of those patients for the virus have been encouraging. We anticipate discharge for some of them, as soon as the results of the second COVID-19 tests are available.

All non-essential visitation to the facility is still suspended until further notice. Ongoing interventions to minimize transmission of COVID-19 within the facility include:

- Staff and any essential visitors are screened for fever and/or signs of respiratory illness upon entry to the facility, and every staff member must wear a facemask at all times. Our personal protective equipment (PPE) levels are adequate.
- COVID-19 positive patients, and patients under investigation for the virus, are isolating from our non-COVID residents;
- Active resident monitoring each shift for symptoms and/or status changes;
- Strict infection control measures are being followed, including frequent hand washing and use of appropriate (PPE);
- More frequent cleaning and disinfecting of resident rooms and common areas with special attention to frequently touched surfaces such as doorknobs, handles, toilets, elevator buttons, and electronic equipment.

As an additional precaution, we strongly recommend that all resident laundry be done by LCC during this pandemic. The service is provided twice weekly and is available at no charge. Please contact Brian Mallet, Director of Laundry Service at [bmallet@tlcn.org](mailto:bmallet@tlcn.org) or 845-235-8294 for more information.

Resident and family communication remains a high priority, and our staff will contact you as soon as we receive confirmation that your loved one tested positive for COVID. As

always, you can contact your unit manager or social worker for updates, as well as the Director of Nursing for any concerns you may have.

Each day, our dedicated and courageous staff is doing their best to provide care and maintain some normalcy for our residents. It is because of their commitment that our COVID positive patients are preparing to go home. They can't do it alone, so we ask for your help by staying connected to your loved one during this difficult time. To coordinate phone chats, virtual visits via SKYPE, FaceTime, or a "Window Visit" with a resident, please contact Carolyn Brazil in Recreation at 845-235-8230, or the Unit Manager.

We will continue to provide you with these weekly updates for as long as necessary. Keep us in your prayers and remember that staying at home can slow the spread of COVID-19. For additional information on the virus, we recommend that you contact the CDC and/or the NYS Department of Health websites.

Patricia Ludington, RN  
Administrator