

COVID-19 Update

4-29-2020

To Our Residents and Family Members:

As you are aware, Lutheran Care Center serves a frail and vulnerable population of older adults, and the safety of those residents and our staff is our top priority. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have intensified our infection control precautions and are closely monitoring and adhering to guidelines issued by the NYS Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control.

As always, but especially at this challenging time, we are committed to transparency and making resident and family communication a high priority. While closely monitoring the condition of all our residents and staff this week, we identified and tested three residents with symptoms resembling COVID-19. The results of those tests were positive, and their family members were notified immediately. Those residents are now isolating in private rooms in our dedicated COVID-19 section. Our Medical Director, the New York State Department of Health, and the County Health Department were also notified, and we are working diligently and collaboratively with them to prevent an outbreak.

While we still have a few staff members isolating at home, currently, our staffing, as well as our PPE inventories are adequate. In addition, we are pleased to report that three of four patients originally admitted with the virus have tested negative and have been moved out of the designated COVID section, and one will be discharged back to the community tomorrow.

As a reminder, 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:

- Upon entry to the facility, staff and any essential visitors are screened for fever and/or signs of respiratory illness, and every staff member must wear a facemask at all times.
- COVID-19 positive patients, and patients under investigation for the virus, are separated from our non-COVID residents;
- Active resident monitoring each shift for symptoms and/or status changes;
- Ongoing staff education on updated COVID-19 guidance;
- Enforcement of strict infection control measures, 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.
- Recommendation that all resident laundry should be managed by LCC during this pandemic.

Again, we want to acknowledge our own LCC “Health Care Heroes” for their dedication and courage as they put our residents’ needs ahead of their own and their families. They were recently recognized with a luncheon provided by the generosity of the Arlington School District, and a “Drive-By” and pizza delivery from the Arlington Fire Dept, EMS, Town of Poughkeepsie Police and Town of Poughkeepsie Highway Department was held at 2 p.m. today to thank them for their service. On behalf of the facility and staff, thank you!!!

Our staff is here to help you to stay connected to our residents during this difficult time. Carolyn Brazil in Recreation (845-235-8230) or the Unit Manager can arrange phone chats, and virtual visits via SKYPE or FaceTime. If possible, please contact Carolyn 24 hours in advance to coordinate a resident “Window Visit” as it takes a little time to ensure they are ready. Other ideas in lieu of visiting:

- * Load an electronic picture frame or other device with your family photos;
- * Send a care package that includes a note and a photo of you to be used as a memory prompt; or
- * Send them a video message that can be replayed often.

As promised, we will provide you with these updates as often as necessary. You can contact your unit manager or social worker for updates, as well as the Director of Nursing for any concerns you may have.

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