

# Long Island State Veterans Home



AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

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April 8, 2020

Dear LISVH Family Member:

Hope you are all coping with this pandemic as best you can. We want to take this opportunity to give you the latest update on our situation regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Our staff remains highly engaged in this epic battle as we are now on Day 29 of this public health crisis.

As of this writing, there are 40 positive cases of novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Thirty-five are here at the Home and five are being actively treated at Stony Brook University Hospital.

Sadly, we must report that we have had the passing of seven veterans since the beginning of the outbreak. All seven veterans had multiple comorbidities, which likely contributed to them succumbing to the coronavirus (COVID-19). Each of these veterans answered the call to serve our great nation with honor and dignity to protect the freedoms we all enjoy today as Americans. Our staff is grieving the loss of these beloved members of the LISVH community. On behalf of everyone here, we offer our deepest condolences to their family and friends. We continue to grieve with them.

In an effort to contain the spread of COVID-19, we are actively cohorting residents who have tested positive for the novel coronavirus as per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and New York State Department of Health guidelines. After lengthy discussions with New York State Department of Health officials, we received recommendations to keep existing residents living on our Reflections (Alzheimer's & Dementia) Unit together in their current location due to the special needs and safety concerns for these particular residents.

On the employee front, all staff are properly screened with a temperature check upon arrival into the building and any employee showing symptoms has immediate access to Coronavirus COVID-19 testing. Since March 10, 2020, we have tested multiple employees on all shifts. To date, 14 employees have tested positive and they are all recovering at home.

We want to acknowledge our Nursing and Environmental Services Department for their tireless efforts under these extraordinary circumstances. All of us are grateful for their perseverance and self-sacrifice during these times in which we are asking them to give so much. We value their commitment to help protect the lives of those we are so honored to care for.

On the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) front, we have had some major deliveries this week and supplies remain strong. While it has been a challenge to secure PPE, we do have all the equipment we need to protect our caregivers as they continue to do their jobs. Securing PPE will always be a top priority, and we will never rest until adequate quantities have been obtained. Our care givers deserve nothing less.

Please know that we continue to prepare for both Passover and Easter celebrations here at the Home. Our Chaplains, Father Tom Tuite, Rabbi Joe Topek and Reverend Greg Leonard, will be conducting religious services on our closed circuit television system (Channel 67). We appreciate their tireless efforts to keep spirituality strong for residents and staff at the Home. Their spiritual work does not go unnoticed.

Lastly, the support of family members has been immeasurable. Thank you to all those who have called and/or written. We are getting your messages to the staff and sharing your kind words with them. We can't thank you enough as we continue to endure this unprecedented event.

As always, we will continue to keep you informed about our situation. Please continue to refer to our website. Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Best,

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