

Long Island State Veterans Home



AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

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LISVH.org

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Dear LISVH Family Member:

As a 350-bed skilled nursing facility, the Long Island State Veterans Home now is into the close of Day 35 of this public health pandemic. We continue to do battle against the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and while the challenges we face are unprecedented, our staff of caregivers and support personnel remain strong.

As of this writing, there are 52 residents who have tested positive for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Forty-eight are here at the Home and four are receiving treatment at Stony Brook University Hospital. In addition, we have had a number of residents who have made full recoveries from this virus. We will report these numbers in future letters to you.

We sadly report that 24 residents have passed since the beginning of this outbreak on March 10, 2020. A majority of these veterans had multiple comorbidities, which likely contributed to their succumbing to the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). We honor these brave soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen for their service to our great nation. All of us here at the Long Island State Veterans Home recognize that the freedoms we enjoy today come from their personal sacrifice. Our staff continues to deeply grieve the loss of these beloved members of the LISVH community. We continue to offer our deepest condolences to their family and friends.

A major priority at the Home has been to provide every caregiver with the proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). As a matter of fact, we have received major shipments today and expect more deliveries by the end of this week. Since day one, we have been able to provide our frontline staff with the right tools to do their job. While it has been a struggle to secure products, we are getting it done.

Lastly, we would like to share our overall staffing situation. As of today, 34 employees are positive for novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Forty have tested negative. Twenty-one are considered persons under investigation (PUIs) and 53 have fully recovered from their illness and have returned to work. While the numbers seem large, we remind you that we have a total work force of 675 full-time, part-time and per-diem employees. Staffing levels **have not been impacted** to date due to employees testing positive for the virus. Our early decision to go on quarantine has flattened the curve for our work force.

Yesterday, we received an email from Joe Rohan, the President of the LISVH Resident Council and resident of Unit 3D. Joe is a patriotic Vietnam Veteran who recently contracted the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Joe told us that he did a full-year tour in Vietnam and had one very close encounter with a nasty Russian 122mm rocket while serving in the Army. Joe went on to say that **“this present generation of caregivers have written a new definition of the word ‘hero.’ Courage, bravery, valor – stares us in the face each morning as we lie flat on our backs – their response – an innocent, wonderful smile – an unwillingness to accept their new title of hero – just a renewed commitment to care for us. They are doing everything possible to keep us well and comfortable.”** We are grateful to Joe for his unsolicited email and we appreciate his thoughts about the caliber of professionalism and kindness exhibited by our staff during this epic public health event.

In closing, we remain committed to transparency and want you to know our situation here at the Home. Together, we will get through this. If we can be of further assistance, don’t hesitate to reach out to us directly.

Best,

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