

Long Island State Veterans Home



AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

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Dear LISVH Family Member:

As the world continues the fight against the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), we continue to update you on the current situation at the Long Island State Veterans Home.

We have 51 residents who have currently tested positive for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Forty-five are here at the Veterans Home and six are receiving treatment at Stony Brook University Hospital. There are also nine residents at the Home who are considered Persons Under Investigation (PUIs) and are awaiting test results. PUIs are people who may be exhibiting signs or symptoms of the virus or may have been exposed.

In following federal and state guidelines, we are cohorting residents based on their novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) status. As you may know and/or may have experienced, this has involved some room changes among various units. We certainly appreciate all the family cooperation we have received for the past few weeks regarding this matter. Due to the HIPAA regulations, we can only share information on your loved one and no one else. We appreciate your adherence to this important standard, as we remain committed to resident privacy.

We sadly report that 46 have passed since this outbreak began 42 days ago on March 10, 2020. The novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) has devastated nursing homes and assisted living facilities on Long Island and across our great nation. According to epidemiologists, the rates of mortality for men are significantly higher than for women. Similar to the other 156 State Veterans Homes in the United States, about 90% of our residents are men. Many of these men reside at the Home for a significant amount of time. Our staff continues to mourn the loss of our residents, as these Heroes have taught us over the years about bravery, courage and honor. Each veteran, who has passed, reminds us that "Freedom is not free," and we can never take the freedoms we enjoy every day for granted. Our entire staff mourns with our families during these terrible times.

As we have indicated in earlier correspondence to you, we consistently follow the guidelines of the CDC, CMS, VA and the New York State Department of Health. In addition, we have decided from the start to be very transparent with information to our families and friends. That being said, many skilled nursing facilities have opted not to share information. While it is clear how devastating this

pandemic has been to most long-term care facilities, we are dismayed by the lack of transparency. We do believe this is why Governor Cuomo recently established Executive Order 202.18 requiring nursing homes to report COVID-19 information to families on a daily basis. As always, we will continue to share our situation with you through our family letters, as well as the required daily update on our website.

Our staffing numbers have remained adequate throughout this event. Since March 10, we have tested 114 of our employees. Fifty-three have tested positive for novel Coronavirus COVID-19, 53 have tested negative for novel Coronavirus COVID-19 and eight of those tested are considered PUIs who are waiting at Home for their test results. Of those 53 employees who have tested positive, 15 have fully recovered and returned to work. Staff remains valiant and courageous as they continue to provide care to your loved one. Our pride abounds as our caregivers continue to stand up against the virus. Thank you to all the families who have reached out with well wishes for our staff.

We also wanted you to have the latest information on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Levels of all items remain adequate and we replenish supplies used on a daily basis. Every day, donations of masks, coveralls, face shields and gowns arrive at our front door. They come from new friends, old friends, elected officials, veterans groups, students and community organizations. The response has been overwhelming and heartwarming. We hope to acknowledge everyone who has reached out via future communications.

Please know that we are thinking of you and your family. Our wish for you is that you remain safe. This novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has created awful and unwanted consequences. Rest assured, we stand ready to continue this fight.

Best,

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