

Long Island State Veterans Home



AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

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LISVH.org

April 28, 2020

Dear LISVH Family Member:

On the 49th day of our epic battle against the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, we were privileged to be part of a flyover by the United States Navy Blue Angels and the United States Air Force Thunderbirds earlier this afternoon. These two elite military units honored all essential healthcare workers in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. As you know, these two squadrons showcase the pride and professionalism of the Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force. They also inspire a culture of excellence and service to our country through flight. Our staff thoroughly enjoyed this tribute and, like the Blue Angels and Thunderbirds, remain ever focused on our mission to “Care for America’s Heroes.” For those who were unable to experience this humbling acclamation, please see the footage on our Facebook page.

Today, we have 67 residents who are currently positive for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Sixty-one are here at LISVH and six are receiving treatment at Stony Brook University Hospital and other local hospitals. There are also two residents at the Home who are considered Persons Under Investigation (PUIs) and await results. PUIs are people who may be exhibiting signs or symptoms of the virus, or may have been exposed to the virus. We also continue to cohort our residents based on their novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) status. Our situation remains dynamic and we must thank all impacted families for their full cooperation with the room changes. We also appreciate your adherence to existing HIPAA privacy rules and regulations, as we cannot share information on roommates or other residents here at the Home.

It is with utmost sadness, since the beginning of the outbreak, we report that 56 residents have passed away from COVID-19. Please know that our Home remains committed to being totally transparent with our families and friends. Our veterans have taught us many values over time, and speaking the truth in the face of a public health crisis is one of these lessons. Our staff continues to deeply grieve the loss of all those we were so honored to care for during their time of need. We recognize the suffering their families have endured. As you know, our palliative care partner has been Good Shepherd Hospice. Good Shepherd Hospice is currently offering virtual bereavement support groups. There is no cost for our LISVH families. We encourage all who may need bereavement counseling to take advantage of this service. Registration information is available on the COVID-19 information tab on our website.

We would like to guardedly share some good news. As you know, many sources are saying that recovery from the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) is about 14 days after being diagnosed. Research has not confirmed whether this timeline applies to a geriatric population. That being said, we now have 14 veterans who were diagnosed over 21 days ago and are doing well. Again, we continue to actively monitor these veterans as a post-recovery cohort. We hope for additional residents to join this group in the weeks ahead.

Our staffing remains strong and the spirit of our employees was profoundly boosted on April 25th. We would like to thank our families, volunteers, veterans groups and the Manorville & Setauket Fire Departments for their Healthcare Heroes Change-Of-Shift Salute that was held this past Saturday by our main entrance. We are consistently impacted and validated by the overwhelming support we receive from our families and our community.

To date, in terms of numbers, we have tested 132 of our 675 employees for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Sixty-one have tested positive and 71 have tested negative. Of those who have tested positive, 32 are recovering at home and 29 have returned to work. There is currently one employee who is considered a PUI and is also waiting for results at their home.

Our Personal Protective Equipment supplies remain adequate and our staff have the tools to do their job. Donations continue to come in and we have been overwhelmed with the amount of support shown in the past eight weeks. Thank you again.

Lastly, to you, our wonderful family members, we are anxiously awaiting your return. Your absence has been significant not only to our veterans, but to our staff as well. All of us will continue to serve as surrogate family members to your loved ones as you remain safe in your homes. Please reach out if we can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

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