

# Long Island State Veterans Home



AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

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Dear LISVH Family Member:

Here at the Long Island State Veterans Home, we begin May, “Older Americans Month,” by recognizing the contributions senior Americans have made throughout and for our nation. We salute the residents at our Home for their heroic efforts in keeping America free. We remember with utmost gratitude their willingness to serve our country with honor, courage, and self-sacrifice. It is with great pride that the LISVH staff continues to care for our nation’s heroes, many of whom are “Older Americans,” during this unprecedented event.

As we close the week out, we would like to provide you with another update as we continue to fight the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. We continue to remain transparent and share with you our current situation here at the Home. We have 71 residents who are currently positive for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Sixty-Six are here at LISVH and five are receiving treatment at Stony Brook University Hospital and other local hospitals. In addition, we continue to cohort our residents based upon their novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) status. We realize that room changes are disruptive, so we remain grateful to both our residents and families for their full cooperation.

We are saddened to report that since the beginning of the outbreak, we have had 59 residents pass away from the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Our hearts remain heavy with grief, as we mourn the loss of these brave warriors. It is because of their personal sacrifice of military service our country has remained free, which allows us to practice our religion, express our convictions and live a life full of liberty. We want to remind families that our palliative care partner – Good Shepherd Hospice – is offering virtual bereavement support groups for families. There is no cost to our LISVH families and encourage all those who may need some assistance to take advantage of this free service. Registration information is available on the COVID-19 information tab on our website.

As we indicated earlier this week, many sources are indicating the recovery period from the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) is about 14 days upon diagnosis. Research has not confirmed whether this timeline applies to a geriatric population. However, with this information in mind, we are happy to report that 25 veterans who were diagnosed with COVID-19 over 21 days ago are now doing well. In the days ahead, we hope to announce additional veterans who fall into this wonderful category. All 25 remain a tremendous inspiration to all of us here at the Home.

On March 17, we closed our medical model Adult Day Health Care program. The program includes veterans as well as spouses and widows. We want you to know that our ADHC staff continues to maintain in contact with all 82 registrants through telephonic means. In addition, nine of the 82 registrants, all veterans, were identified as highly vulnerable. For these veterans, we are making home visits to them every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Our ADHC team provides wellness checks and also delivers nutritious meals. We will continue to provide for these veterans until our Adult Day Health Care doors open again.

As of today, we have tested 136 of our 675 employees for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Sixty-two have tested positive and 72 have tested negative. Of those who have tested positive, 28 are recovering at home and 34 have returned to work. There are also two employees who are considered Persons Under Investigation (PUIs) and are awaiting results at their homes. PUIs are people who may have signs and symptoms, or may have been exposed to the virus.

Our Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplies are adequate and we have received additional major shipments this week. We continue to provide our caregivers with the tools needed to do their heroic work. Staffing levels are adequate and our caregivers remain vigilant and valiant.

In closing, we hope the month of May will bring brighter days. We would like to acknowledge everyone's patience as you are all doing your part to "flatten the curve." We ask you to stay on course and continue the safe practices of social distancing, hand washing, mask wearing and kindness to all. We want you to remain safe and healthy. Please continue to reach out to us if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

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