

Long Island State Veterans Home



AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

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Dear LISVH Family Member:

As we begin the ninth week of fighting against the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, we want to update you on the situation here at our Home. Last Friday, we received an unannounced visit from the New York State Department of Health. The purpose of their visit was to evaluate our policies and protocols in responding to the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), as well as to inspect of all our nursing units. They also reviewed how we are cohorting our residents based on their novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) status and assessed our current inventory of Personal Protective Equipment. We are pleased to inform you that the facility review met all required New York State Department of Health standards. We always welcome unannounced surveys, as it helps to validate the care we are providing to your loved one.

We would like to share the current numbers at the Home. Our goal is to remain transparent throughout this battle and until this pandemic ends. We have 68 residents who have currently tested positive for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Sixty-three are here at the LISVH, four are receiving treatment at Stony Brook University Hospital and one resident is at a local hospice receiving care. Please note, that of the 68 residents who are currently positive, 30 of these veterans are in a post-COVID-19 recovery phase. Remember that we are using 21 days or more after diagnosis of COVID-19 for this recovery category. All 30 veterans have endured the current quarantine and like us, are anxious to have the Home get back to normal.

We continue to cohort residents and yesterday we tested 22 additional residents who have had no symptoms since the beginning. Our goal is to determine where best to cohort them going forward. We are anticipating additional room changes before the end of the week. Of course, we will reach out to family members who serve as the health care proxy for their loved one. Thank you again to all family members for their full cooperation during this unprecedented time.

We are saddened to report that since the beginning of the outbreak, we have had 65 residents pass away from the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Each of these residents had multiple comorbidities prior to succumbing to the virus. We continue to mourn the loss of these veterans, as each veteran represented honor, courage, respect, perseverance and love of country. We grieve with their families as well because of the circumstances we are facing together. 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 for our LISVH families and we 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 of today, 142 of our 675 employees have been tested for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). A total of 64 have tested positive, 73 have tested negative and five employees are considered Persons Under Investigation (PUIs) and are awaiting test results at home. Of those who have tested positive, 36 have fully recovered and have returned to work.

Our Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplies remain adequate and new sources for PPE become more available each week. Our frontline caregivers have all the tools to properly do their job, while protecting their own families from the virus. We remain proud of our staff for all they do – every day, every shift.

Lastly, with the warm weather fast approaching, we hope that you will continue to embrace safe practices as you venture outside of your home. Handwashing, social distancing and mask wearing remain important. Please don't let your guard down, as your personal safety is important to us as well. If you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to call us.

Sincerely,

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