

Long Island State Veterans Home



AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

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Dear LISVH Family Member:

As we complete the ninth week of doing battle against the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), we continue to update you on our circumstances here at the Home. We remain responsive to a very dynamic situation, always staying true to our mission of “Caring for America’s Heroes.”

One of the many advantages of the LISVH is that we sit on the campus of a major research university. We have always been proud to be part of Stony Brook Medicine, especially as this institution creates new modalities of diagnostic testing and treatment. Earlier this week, we began initial discussions with Stony Brook Medicine researchers to possibly take part in two new and exciting trials that will help conquer COVID-19. The first study involves a drug and antibody infusion as prophylaxis for newly diagnosed residents. The second study involves assessing a new point of care testing unit that will allow for rapid testing for the virus. We are excited to be included in these trials and while still in the early stages, we wanted to share this information with you. All research guidelines are under the auspices of the Institutional Review Board here at Stony Brook University, and require proper consent from residents and/or their health care proxies. We will share more information with you as it becomes available.

As we reiterate our steadfast goal of remaining transparent with you, our family members, we would like to share our current numbers at the Home. We have 82 residents who have tested positive for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Eighty are here at the LISVH and two are receiving treatment at Stony Brook University Hospital. Please note, that of the 82 residents who are currently positive, 43 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 43 of these veterans are a true inspiration to our staff.

During this past week, we have continued to test asymptomatic residents due to the increased availability of test kits. While none of these residents have exhibited any signs or symptoms of the virus since March 10, 2020, the results of this additional testing will assist us in our future cohorting process. We will complete the testing of all remaining residents this weekend. All results will be shared as they become available.

As you know, we have been dutifully reporting the passing of our community members linked to the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). We are deeply saddened that 67 residents have passed away from the virus since we went on quarantine on March 10th. All those who succumbed to the virus had multiple

comorbidities as well. All our veterans have answered the call, and as freedom fighters, gave us the ability to enjoy all aspects of our lives as Americans. We can never forget this. We continue to grieve with their families during this unprecedented time in history. Please know 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, 150 of our 675 employees have been tested for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Sixty-six have tested positive and 79 have tested negative. Five employees are considered Persons Under Investigation (PUIs) and are awaiting test results at home. Of those who have tested positive, 40 have fully recovered and have returned to work.

We are pleased to report that our Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplies remain adequate. Late last night, we had a major delivery of disposable isolation gowns that will serve us well into the next few weeks. Additional PPE donations continue to come in on a daily basis. We are grateful for all those who support the Home with their contributions.

For the past two months, the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) has caused tragedy in our country and all over the world. While the future remains uncertain and our new normal is not yet known, please know that we are all fully committed to help steward the Long Island State Veterans Home forward so we can all be together again soon.

Lastly, we will be honoring our resident “Moms” here at the Home for Mother’s Day. Chef Jeff and his team are preparing special meals and desserts to salute our mothers. To all our readers who are also Moms, we want to take a moment to salute you as well.

Continue to stay safe and stay strong,

Sincerely,

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