

Long Island State Veterans Home



AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

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Dear LISVH Family Member:

As we have reached the two-month mark since we went on quarantine back on March 10, we would like to continue to update you on the situation at our Home. Providing constant and clear communication is important to us, and we appreciate all the positive feedback we have been receiving from families.

This week, we are responding to a new Executive Order from Governor Cuomo regarding nursing homes. We have been asked to test all asymptomatic residents at the Home for novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). This was completed last Saturday. In addition, all nursing home employees in the State of New York must receive novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) testing twice a week until further notice. Our staff has been responsive to this request and we are sharing all results with the New York State Department of Health.

Currently, we have 118 residents who have tested positive for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). One hundred-sixteen are here at the Long Island State Veterans Home and two are receiving treatment at Stony Brook University Hospital. Out of the 118 residents that have tested positive, 53 of these veterans are in a post-COVID-19 recovery phase. We are using 21 days or more after initial diagnosis for this recovery category. It is extremely heartwarming for our staff to witness their recovery from this iniquitous illness. As previously mentioned, we conducted testing of the remaining asymptomatic residents. We are awaiting results on 48 residents and will alert you to any changes in our Executive Order - Daily Numbers report which can be found on our website.

Since the start of this global pandemic, we have lost 68 residents, all with multiple comorbidities. Each one of these heroes has earned our deepest respect and admiration for his sacrifice of military service. They answered the call and we owe our freedoms and liberty to them all. We continue to grieve with their families and remember their individual contributions to our Home. Our palliative care partner stands ready to assist families. Those who may need virtual bereavement counseling or support can reach out to Good Shepherd Hospice. Registration information is available on our website; please click onto the COVID-19 information tab.

We will be reporting the status and numbers of our workforce differently due to the twice-a-week COVID-19 testing now required. As our 675 employees are complying with this mandate, 68 have tested positive for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Out of those who tested positive, 44 have fully recovered and have returned to work. The other 24 employees are at home recovering from their illness. Negative results will not be reported, as the cumulative numbers will be in the thousands from the newly required, twice-a-week testing.

Since the first days of this public health crisis, we have always had appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for our staff. Two months in, we continue to have an adequate amount of surgical masks, N95 respirator masks, face shields, head covers, coveralls and isolation gowns. Deliveries and donations are still arriving and we are grateful to everyone who has supported us in this way.

We recognize how the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis is impacting all our lives. This is an incredibly challenging time and the pandemic is affecting everyone differently, including our veterans. Please be reassured that staff continue to perform their duties while recognizing the supportive role they play in your absence. Day shift, evening shift and night shift, our staff continues to bring their familiar (masked) faces to our veterans and provide the support they need and deserve. Our staff does live our Mission: to care for America's heroes. And, for this we are very proud. We hope you are safe in your homes and please let us know if you have any additional questions. We remain here for you.

Sincerely,

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