

# Long Island State Veterans Home



AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

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Dear LISVH Family Member:

With the week coming to a close, we want to update you on all that is happening at the Home. Today represents Day 66 of our campaign against the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), and we continue to provide you with the information you need to know.

Earlier this week, we received notification from the New York State Department of Health that Commissioner Howard Zucker had contracted with Northwell Health to conduct an Infectious Disease Audit of the three State Veterans Homes located downstate, including Montrose, St. Albans and Stony Brook. Yesterday, Bruce Farber, MD, an Infectious Disease Specialist, and Donna Armellio, RN, DNP, CIC, Vice President of Infection Prevention, came to LISVH for our audit. They reviewed our novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) policies and procedures, our cohorting plan, and our medical records, as well as checked our PPE supplies. In addition, they toured our building and interviewed employees. We are pleased to report that they found no deficiencies in our practice. Please know that we always welcome external reviews, as we believe it validates the care we provide to our residents.

As we told you on Tuesday, we continue to meet the mandate to test all nursing home employees twice a week for COVID-19. LISVH employees are dutifully being tested and share their results with our Human Resources Department. As the Governor's latest Executive Order requiring routine testing brings additional responsibility to our employees, it also adds an additional layer of protection for our residents. Thus, this directive will have a positive impact on our Home.

To date, every resident in the Home has been tested for the virus. Currently we have 116 residents who have tested positive for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). One hundred-fourteen are here at the Long Island State Veterans Home and two are receiving treatment at Stony Brook University Hospital. Out of the 116 residents that have tested positive, 56 are in a post-COVID-19 recovery phase. We continue to use 21 days or more after initial diagnosis for this recovery category. Each of our 56 recovered veterans brings us hope that we will eventually see the other side of this public health crisis.

Since the start of this global pandemic, 5,300 nursing home residents in New York State have succumbed to the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). This outbreak has been specifically tragic to frail, elderly populations who reside in assisted living and nursing homes, especially here on Long Island. Our Home has also suffered the impact and to date we have lost 74 residents, all of whom had multiple comorbidities as well. Our veterans are our Heroes. Each of them understood the value of freedom

and answered the call. They taught us about valor, courage, respect and honor. We continue to grieve with their families during this unprecedented time. Please remember that our palliative care partner, Good Shepherd Hospice, stands ready to assist families with virtual bereavement counseling. Registration information is available on our website by clicking onto the COVID-19 information tab.

As indicated earlier, our staff is adhering to the new twice-a-week testing mandate. Since March 10, 2020, of the 675 employees: 83 have tested positive, 34 are recuperating at home, 49 have recovered and returned to work. Negative testing results will not be reported, as the cumulative number will be in the thousands due to the recent Executive Order (see above).

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplies remain adequate and we are currently stockpiling for the weeks and months ahead. We continue to have deliveries from various suppliers and our frontline caregivers continue to have the equipment needed to do their jobs.

Many of you have been reaching out as to when visiting will occur again. We have been informed that Governor Cuomo has extended the stay-at-home order for New York State until May 28, 2020. Guidance for future visiting will come from the New York State Department of Health and, as you know, we will continue to be in substantial compliance with all directives. Everyone is watching the numbers (including us) regarding this virus. While we cannot predict what the future will bring, we will continue to stay focused on your loved one. We hope that, with the warm weather upon us, you continue to stay safe and stay strong. As always, if we can answer any additional questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

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