

# Long Island State Veterans Home



AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

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Dear LISVH Family Member:

As this week comes to a close, we want to take this opportunity to update you on our situation here at the Long Island State Veterans Home. We remain vigilant in our fight against the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), as we continue to follow the directives of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Veterans Administration, and the New York State Department of Health. The past twelve weeks have been dynamic, fast paced and revealing. As we look back to when we closed our Home to visitors on March 10, much has happened on our campus. All along, we have been extremely diligent in following the advice of all federal, state and local agencies. In the weeks and months ahead, we will continue to adhere to all recommended and required standards.

Today, we have 56 residents that fall into the category of positive for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Fifty-three are here at the Home and 3 are receiving treatment at Stony Brook University Hospital. Please note that we have 74 residents who have recovered from the virus. Our standard for recovery is 21 days after initial diagnosis of the virus. All our recovered veterans are a remarkable and encouraging inspiration for our staff.

Earlier this week, we heard that the total novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) death count for the United States of America has surpassed 100,000. This number is a grim reminder of the wickedness of this invisible virus. The novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) has not been kind to nursing homes as well as assisted living facilities, including our Home. Since March 10, 2020, eight-two residents have succumbed to the virus. All those who passed had multiple comorbidities, which made them more vulnerable to this unprecedented illness. We continue to grieve with our LISVH family members who have lost a loved one. Each veteran signifies the importance of military service. We are reminded that less than one percent of Americans have served in the Armed Forces. We owe a great debt to the one percent who wore a uniform in order to preserve our freedoms. Our admiration for these heroes endures.

We would like to also update you on our workforce here at the Home. We are grateful to all our dedicated staff for maintaining the mandatory twice-a-week swab testing. Testing for staff is available on-site, three days a week, and employees may utilize offsite-testing facilities as well. Currently, 102 of our 675 employees have tested positive for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Of these employees, 40 are recuperating at home and 62 have fully recovered and have returned to work. We

would like to reassure you that we have been able to maintain appropriate staffing levels throughout this pandemic. In addition, we continue to have all the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) necessary at this time. Another special thanks to all who have donated PPE for the care of our residents.

In closing, please know that we want to be responsive to your multiple inquiries regarding the future of resident visiting. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has recently released recommended guidance for reopening of nursing homes to visitors. The CMS plan includes a 4 phase process that requires the nursing home to achieve specific benchmarks before advancing to the next phase of reopening. Specifically mentioned in this guidance is a critical benchmark of a 28 day period with no new nursing home onset COVID-19 cases before opening to visitation. We are awaiting the New York State Department of Health's interpretation of these CMS recommendations. We anticipate new regulatory guidance being issued by the Department of Health. When we receive this update – we will be updated you as well. We appreciate your patience these past few months; however, this virus remains highly contagious and unpredictable. Safety remains our top priority and we hope that you will continue to understand the situation. Please stay safe and stay strong. Feel free to contact us with any of your concerns. As always, we are a phone call away.

Sincerely,

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