

Long Island State Veterans Home



AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

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LISVH.org

June 12, 2020

Dear LISVH Family Member:

As this week comes to a close, we want to update you on our ongoing battle against the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Earlier this week, the number of cases throughout the United States surpassed 2 million, which represents the ongoing virulence of this invisible and wicked virus.

Currently, there are 33 residents who are positive for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Twenty-Seven are at the Home and six are receiving treatment at Stony Brook University Hospital as well as the Northport VA Hospital. A significant number of these COVID positive residents continue to be asymptomatic and are doing well. We are also pleased to announce that 116 veterans have fully recovered from the virus. We are still utilizing 21 days after the initial diagnosis as our indicator for recovery. There has been no deaths associated with the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) this week.

In regards to our work force, we have had 111 staff members test positive for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) since March 10, 2020. Thirty-four employees are recuperating at their homes and 77 have fully recovered and are back to work. Please note that the Governor's Executive Order to swab test all nursing home employees in New York State has been extended to July 9, 2020. The Order has been modified; now all full time, part time and per diem employees will require one test per week. We will continue to provide our staff with on-site testing. We would like to acknowledge our staff for their diligent compliance with this important mandate.

As we are seeing significant improvement in our COVID numbers, we are developing protocols to safely provide our residents with some outdoor recreation. We are creating an internal program called "Operation Sunshine" through a collaboration with our Infection Control Preventionist and our entire clinical team. Participation criteria is being established for our Non-COVID-19 residents, as well as those residents who have fully recovered, as established by two negative COVID-19 swab tests and are deemed appropriate to go outside. We will be utilizing the inner courtyard for scheduled outdoor recreation with assigned staff. We will accomplish this program through the use of proper Personal Protective Equipment for residents and staff, social distancing, as well as sunscreen protection. This program will begin next week and will be implemented unit by unit on a rotating basis. Operation Sunshine is for our residents and does not have a visitor component at this time. We were reminded yesterday at the Governor's press conference, that the New York State Department of Health is still establishing guidelines for visiting and has not yet shared this with long-term care facilities.

While making progress, we appreciate your continued patience. We continue to look forward to the day you are all able to return to our Home. If you have additional questions, please call your Social Worker or any of us. Have a great weekend.

Sincerely,

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