

Long Island State Veterans Home



AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

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LISVH.org

June 16, 2020

Dear LISVH Family Member:

Today represents Day 98 in our epic battle against the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), and we continue to provide you with the latest information from our Home. Earlier today, we had a virtual Resident Council meeting. Utilizing our closed circuit television station (Channel 67), we were able to update our residents on our situation, as well as answer their questions which were submitted to our Social Work staff prior to the meeting. Our residents had great questions and like you, they want to return to some form of normalcy. We were pleased that we were able to engage with our residents and will continue to do so every two weeks.

At this time, we have 48 residents who are positive for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Forty-three are at the Home and five are being treated at Stony Brook University Hospital. The number of positive residents has gone up since our letter to you last Friday; however, many individuals included in this count do not represent new cases. The increase is attributed to residents who were previously positive, then tested negative and asymptomatic, and are now resulting positive after our latest round of testing. Again, the majority of these residents remain asymptomatic. Due to the variability seen in these results, we continue to retest on an ongoing basis. We strongly believe more data leads to better decision-making, especially as it relates to cohorting. In addition, as more veterans enter into a post-COVID-19 recovery phase, we will be making some additional room changes this week. Again, we remain grateful to our families for their full cooperation, as we continue to meet federal and state guidelines on cohorting.

Sadly, we did have one additional veteran pass away due to the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). We remain grateful for his sacrifice of military service during the Vietnam War and we are privileged to having had the opportunity to care for him over the past few years. We grieve with his family and all the families who have lost loved ones during this global pandemic. This is another significant loss to the LISVH community.

Since March 10, 2020, we have had 113 employees test positive for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Twenty-eight of our employees are recovering at home and 85 are fully recovered and are back to work. We continue to remain vigilant in swab testing every employee once a week, as per the Governor's extended Executive Order scheduled to expire on July 9, 2020.

Over the past few days, we have received multiple inquiries regarding visitation to the Home. While the New York State Department of Health has issued new guidelines to hospitals on this subject, please note that it does not apply to Long Term Care facilities. Earlier today, Governor Cuomo indicated in his daily press conference that the New York State Department of Health is still studying the situation for nursing home visitation. Like you, we are monitoring the situation closely and preparing for what the “new normal” may look like.

While the immediate future still remains uncertain, one thing has not changed. We remain committed to providing the best care for your family member during this unprecedented time. Please know we are always a phone call away.

Sincerely,

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