June 19, 2020

Dear LISVH Family Member:

With the week coming to a close, we want to provide an update on our current status with the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) here at our Home. Today, we have 39 residents who are positive for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Thirty-three are at the Home and six are receiving treatment at Stony Brook University Hospital. We continue to do weekly COVID-19 swab testing and are pleased to see that our overall numbers are on the decline. We strongly believe more data leads to better decision-making, especially as it relates to cohorting. In addition, we have 123 residents whom we are deeming fully recovered based on the fact that they are asymptomatic and 21 days post initial diagnosis of the virus. All are doing well and remain an inspiration to our staff. By now, you know that we continue to cohort based upon COVID-19 status. Therefore, additional room changes have been made this week. Cohorting better enables us to stay ahead of the virus. Please know how grateful we remain to all our families for their understanding of this situation.

Early this morning, one additional veteran passed away due to the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). In addition to the virus, this World War II veteran had multiple comorbidities. We grieve the loss of another member of the “Greatest Generation”. Their sacrifices were significant and played a huge role in preserving our freedoms and liberty. We mourn with his family and all the families who have lost their loved ones during this public health crisis. We remember these members of the Long Island State Veterans Home community and the significant contributions they made while living here.

Since March 10, 2020, we have had 115 employees test positive for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Twenty-nine of our employees are recovering at home and 86 are fully recovered and are back to work. Once a week swab testing for our employees is ongoing, and we are in full compliance with the Governor’s Executive Order. The order is in place until July 9, 2020. We will continue to monitor this important mandate and share any future changes with you.

Once again, we want to reiterate that the New York State Department of Health has not established any metrics for nursing homes as it relates to reopening for visitation. Once established, we will remain diligent in meeting those criteria. Again, we share your desire to reopen for visiting, but we must follow the current Executive Order in place. Unfortunately, we do not have any new information to share on this topic.
Lastly, with Father’s Day fast approaching, we asked Chef Jeff to create a special meal for our Dads (and everyone else) here at the Home!!! This Sunday, our Father’s Day lunch is as follows:

Sliced Ribeye Steak with Peter Luger’s Steak Sauce
Tomato Mozzarella Salad
Creamed Spinach & German Fried Potatoes
Ice Cream Sundae with Whipped Cream

Of course, if your Dad wants something else, our Food Service team will try and respond to all requests. Meals will also be modified based on dietary needs. We know the importance of this day, and we want you to know that we too will honor your Dad. To all our Dad’s reading this letter, thank you for all you do as a parent - because it does matter.

Have a question or a comment? Don’t hesitate to reach out to us. We remain committed to providing the best care for your family member during this unprecedented time. Have a great weekend and a very Happy Father’s Day.

Sincerely,

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