

Long Island State Veterans Home



AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

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Dear LISVH Family Member:

Today represents Day 91 in our battle against the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Since we went on quarantine on March 10, 2020, we have strived to be transparent and to provide the latest information to our families and friends. Therefore, we will continue to brief you on how this global pandemic impacts our Home.

Currently, there are 46 residents who are positive for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19); forty-three are at the Home and three are at Stony Brook University Hospital receiving treatment. Many of these COVID positive residents are asymptomatic and doing well. We continue to test our residents on a weekly basis. We are pleased to report that 109 veterans have fully recovered from the virus. We are still utilizing 21 days after the initial diagnosis as our indicator for recovery. Since our last correspondence to you, there has been no deaths associated with the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

We continue to cohort our residents based on COVID-19 status, and we are pleased that more and more of our veterans are being relocated due to their recovery from the virus. While we acknowledge that a room change may not be desirable, we are fully committed to the federal, state and local regulations that guide our decision making. We remain grateful to our families for their full cooperation during this public health crisis.

As it relates to our employees, we have had 108 staff members test positive for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) since March 10, 2020. Thirty-four employees are recuperating at their homes and 78 have fully recovered and are back to work. Please note that the Governor's Executive Order to have all nursing home workers swab tested twice a week was scheduled to end tonight. As of this writing, we still do not know if the Executive Order will end or be extended. We understand the importance of good data, as does the New York State Department of Health; therefore, we believe the Order will be extended in order to track testing results in our communities.

Late last week, we lost an esteemed member of our Veterans Advisory Board. We are sad to report the passing of Mr. Frank DeMarco, who represented the AMVETS Organization. Appointed to our Veterans Advisory Board in April, 2004, Frank was a tireless advocate for our Home for the last 16 years. For some of those years, Frank served as Chairman of the Board and was responsible for securing our carillon music system that plays patriotic songs outside our building throughout the day. Frank was a dear friend to our Home as well as to all the veterans who live here. He will be sorely missed.

Lastly, we continue to hear your questions regarding visitation. While parts of New York (including the Long Island Region) are gearing up for reopening, unfortunately, none of the announced phases apply to long term care facilities. We continue to monitor all the federal, state, and local guidelines regarding this important topic. Internally, we are developing a reopening plan for our Home. Ultimately, we need the approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Veterans Administration and the New York State Department of Health to reopen to visitors. Your ongoing patience is to be commended and we will continue to alert you to any changes that come about. As always, don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Sincerely,

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