

# Long Island State Veterans Home



AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

100 Patriots Road  
Stony Brook, NY 11790-3300  
P 631.444.8500  
F 631.444.8575  
LISVH.org

July 10, 2020

Dear LISVH Family Member,

As we complete four months in the battle against the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), we want to update you on our situation at the Long Island State Veterans Home. While we see that there are many new cases of the virus cropping up nationwide, our numbers at the Home have been stable.

The number of residents who remain positive for the Coronavirus (COVID-19) is seven. All are asymptomatic and are resting comfortably here at the Home. More specifically, our last new resident case occurred 26 days ago on June 14<sup>th</sup>. In addition, no residents have passed away from the virus since our last letter. Today, we were hoping to have an even lower number of residents remaining positive. However, with the overwhelming number of tests being conducted in New York State, results have taken additional time to be processed. We are optimistic that we may have additional residents convert to a negative result by next week.

Since we began responding to this public health crisis on March 10, 2020, we have had 135 employees test positive for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Sixteen are currently at home under quarantine, and 119 have fully recovered and have returned to work. As predicted, the Governor in a new Executive Order today (EO202-50) has extended once-a-week novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) swab testing for all nursing home employees until Saturday, August 8, 2020. We support this extension as it allows us to have additional testing data on our caregivers and potentially assists us on curbing the spread of the virus. We have an ample supply of test kits and will continue to offer onsite testing to all employees.

At the close of every letter to our families, we encourage you to call with questions – and you do! The current hot topic is “when can my loved one return to his or her original nursing unit?” While our positive numbers are declining (and that’s good), they have not been completely diminished. For the safety and protection of our veterans, we must continue to keep residents in their designated COVID-19 status cohorts on their assigned residential unit. We will do our best to accommodate requests and transfer residents back to their desired units when conditions permit. We are not there yet, however, we believe we are getting there. Your ongoing patience is very much appreciated by our leadership team.

Another frequently asked question is “when will families be allowed to visit?” Good News! Late this afternoon, the New York State Department of Health released an advisory about the restart of limited visitation in skilled nursing facilities. The Department will permit outside visitation, and limited indoor visitation and activities, if the nursing home meets specific benchmarks and develops a reopening plan that is submitted and approved by the Department of Health. Our leadership team is already reviewing the guidance in great detail and developing a visitation plan for approval. On initial review of the key benchmarks indicated in the reopening plan, the Home achieves many of the criteria and conditions listed. Unfortunately, we have not yet achieved the absence of new onset of COVID-19 among the staff for a period of no less than 28 days. While we still have employees testing positive for COVID-19, we are optimistic that we will reach this goal. A copy of the New York State Department of Health Advisory and Guidelines can be viewed on their website or at [https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/07/health-advisory\\_nursing-home-visitation\\_final-7.pdf](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/07/health-advisory_nursing-home-visitation_final-7.pdf). For the safety of our residents and staff, we will continue to follow the strict guidelines of various federal, state and local agencies throughout this global pandemic.

We would like to thank all our families who have taken the time to send our staff words of encouragement through a card, letter, or Facebook post. Your thoughts and prayers have been felt by all of us. Again, please stay safe and call us if we can be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

Fred S. Sganga, FACHE  
Executive Director  
631-444-8606

Jonathan Spier, MHA, LNHA  
Deputy Executive Director  
631-444-8615

Frank Cervo, MD  
Medical Director  
631-444-8602

Rona Schlau, RN  
Director of Nursing  
631-444-8707

Jean Brand, MSW  
Director of ADHC  
631-444-8530