

Long Island State Veterans Home



AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

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July 28, 2020

Dear LISVH Family Member:

As the week begins, we want to update you on the battle against the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). We remain committed to total transparency in our effort to communicate all that is occurring at the Home during this ongoing global pandemic.

We are extremely pleased to report that the last resident who tested positive for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) has recently had two negative swab tests and is now deemed as recovered. Our current resident population is now free of the virus and we will continue to work hard at remaining this way. The last four months have brought about many challenges; however, we never lost sight of reaching our goal to eliminate the virus from our residents whom we care for every day.

As you know, we employ approximately 675 caregivers and ancillary staff. Since March 10, 2020, we have had 138 employees test positive for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Thirteen asymptomatic employees are currently on quarantine in their own homes and 125 have fully recovered and are back at work. Yesterday, we received results on all employees who were tested last week. We identified two additional employees who were newly positive for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Both of these employees were tested on July 20, 2020 and have been immediately quarantined at home. Fortunately, we do not have to reset the clock, as these employees tested positive on the same date as previously reported employees. We are still looking at Tuesday, August 18, 2020, as a reopening date for limited visiting.

Recently, we received a few calls inquiring about our policy and process for admitting new residents during this novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis. This is a great question, and we want to alert you to our procedure. First and foremost, all resident rooms are fully sanitized (deep cleaning with approved disinfectant germicidal agents, electrostatic cleaning equipment and UV light technology). Safety remains our top priority as we begin to serve new veterans at the Home. We are limited to accepting COVID negative residents. All new entries must have a negative COVID-19 test 48-72 hours prior to admission. Once admitted, a new resident will remain on isolation precautions for a two-week period in a single room with no roommate, if possible. If a single room is not available, the resident will be cohorted with an appropriate roommate and remain on isolation precautions. After a 14-day period, the new resident is tested again for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) to assure that they are free from this illness. Only then can a new resident be placed onto another appropriate nursing unit. Since late June, we have had approximately 30 new admissions without incident. Our new admission procedure is identified as a best practice by the New York State Department of Health. Please know that we continue to

value and take new admission referrals from our families. If you know a veteran in need of short-term rehab, transitional long-term care or palliative care, please have his/her family reach out to our Admission Team at 631-444-8548.

In closing, we continue to recognize your strong desire to reunite with your loved one. We remain focused on achieving this goal while remembering that we are still in the midst of a global pandemic. In the meantime, if we can be of any further assistance, please don't hesitate to call us.

Sincerely,

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