

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

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Dear LISVH Family Member:

As we begin the Fourth of July holiday weekend, we want to update you on our situation here at the Long Island State Veterans Home. We are now at day 115 in the battle against novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). As we begin the new month, we are pleased to report that our numbers at the Home continue to trend in the right direction.

Today, we have 12 residents who are positive for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). All 12 residents are here at the home resting comfortably. In addition, we have 127 residents considered fully recovered, as they remain asymptomatic, and are beyond the 21 days from their initial diagnosis with the Coronavirus. Sadly, this afternoon we lost a veteran who battled the virus for over three weeks. He was a Navy Veteran who served between the Korean and Vietnam War, protecting our country as an officer on the USS Leary. We grieve with his family and remain honored to have cared for this patriot. Our LISVH community recognizes that his service has protected the freedoms we enjoy today.

Since March 10, 2020, we have had 133 employees test positive for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Twenty-nine are recuperating at home and 104 employees are fully recovered and have returned to work. We continue to swab test all employees on a weekly basis and monitor their results. We would like to thank our employees for their ongoing willingness to be tested. Testing protects them, their families, their coworkers and your loved ones as well. We are committed to active testing for all employees.

Please know that we want to be responsive to your multiple inquiries regarding the future of resident visiting and outdoor activities. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has recently released recommended guidance for the reopening of nursing homes to visitors and resident services. The CMS plan for nursing homes includes a 4 phase process that requires the facility to achieve certain benchmarks before advancing to the next phase of reopening. Specifically mentioned in this guidance is the critical benchmark of a 28 day period with no new resident COVID-19 cases. As we stated previously, our COVID-19 cases are diminishing and we are pleased to report that we have had no new positive cases in the past three weeks. We are still awaiting the New York State Department of Health's interpretation of these CMS recommendations. We anticipate new regulatory guidance being issued by the Department of Health. Resident safety remains our top priority, and we hope that you will continue to understand our regulatory protocols. We will continue to keep everyone informed.

As Americans, we recognize July 4, 1776, as a day that represents the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the birth of the nation. Our Founding Fathers asserted that we are all born with "unalienable rights... among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness." This weekend's

holiday celebration will be different for all of us. What remains the same is the time we take time to recognize our foundational American leaders who, 244 years ago, joined to frame a government for the new United States of America. Our Therapeutic Recreation Department has scheduled multiple virtual Fourth of July celebrations, patriotic events, and movies throughout the weekend to be enjoyed by our residents on our closed circuit television channel. Some of these programs include the Macy's 4th of July Fireworks Spectacular and Fourth of July musical concerts performed by the United States Marine Corps Band and United States Air Force Band. We would also like to thank all our Veterans for their incredible service to our country. Furthermore, we will never forget the service of those who have died in battle to protect our nation and preserve our liberty. We hope that you have a safe and enjoyable Fourth of July weekend. Please know that we are here to respond to your inquiries.

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