

Long Island State Veterans Home



AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

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August 4, 2020

Dear LISVH Family Member:

As we begin a new month, we want to update you on the current situation at the Long Island State Veterans Home. We are in Day 147 in the battle against the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Our ongoing goal is to remain transparent with our families and friends as we continue to endure the effects of this global pandemic.

As of today, all residents at the Home remain free of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Since our last writing to you on Friday, we have had no new cases of the virus among our residents. Cohorting by COVID-19 guidelines remains in place, and we continue to be vigilant in keeping our veterans free from the virus.

Unfortunately, we had a new positive COVID-19 case among our staff. We received a positive result on an asymptomatic employee who was tested on July 27, 2020. Since March 10, 2020, we have had 139 employees test positive for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Twelve are asymptomatic and are quarantined at home, while 127 are fully recovered and have returned to work. Since we have a new positive case, we have to reset the start date for limited visitation to the Home. Our new 28-day requirement will take us to Monday, August 24, 2020. While we are disappointed in having to change the start date, we remain committed to following all established federal and state guidelines around the issue of visitation. Should the guidelines be modified in any way, we will be certain to share the details with you.

We are pleased to report that we remain on target to begin "Operation Sunshine" this coming Friday, August 7, 2020. While we are currently dealing with the impact of Tropical Storm Isaias, we are excited about the upcoming weekend for our residents. It has been quite a while since they have enjoyed some fresh air and sunshine, and all our employees are excited for our veterans. Logistically, the outdoor program is a highly coordinated event that will be overseen by the Therapeutic Recreation Department. In order to maintain all the required Infection Control protocols while minimizing any risks to the residents, we are educating our staff as to policies and procedures on how to safely manage our veterans outdoors.

For your information, the New York State Legislature (both the Assembly and the State Senate) is conducting a two-part joint hearing on the impact of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) on the elderly in long-term care settings. The first hearing was held yesterday and the second hearing will be held next Monday, August 10, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. If you have access to the internet, you may watch the hearing on your computer, tablet or other mobile device. Just go to the home page of the New York State Assembly or New York State Senate websites and click onto the “Watch Live” button. The hearings are discussing many of the issues you are concerned about and will give you an opportunity to see your elected officials in action. We hope you will tune in. If we can be responsive to any other needs, please do not hesitate to reach out. Stay safe too.

Sincerely,

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