

Long Island State Veterans Home



AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

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September 1, 2020

Dear LISVH Family Member:

As we begin the month of September, we want to update you on our current situation at the Long Island State Veterans Home. The novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) remains active throughout Suffolk County, with new cases still occurring every day. The good news is that COVID-19 hospitalization and ventilator usage remains very low at this time. Here is our status as of today. We have one resident that remains positive for the virus. This veteran remains asymptomatic and is resting comfortably in quarantine at the Home at this time. In terms of work force, we have had 143 employees test positive for the virus. Three are currently asymptomatic and are quarantining at home. The other 140 employees have fully recovered and have returned to work.

As it relates to COVID-19 testing, we continue to follow all federal and state guidelines for our employees. The Governor's Executive Order for all nursing home employees to be swabbed on a weekly basis ends on Saturday, September 5, 2020. It is our strong belief that this Executive Order will be extended for at least another month. We are prepared to continue on-site testing for our employees. Our staff has been fully cooperative and we appreciate their adherence to the weekly swab testing.

We have had to reset the clock for full face-to-face visitation. Our 28-day reset now takes us to Wednesday, September 23, 2020. In the meantime, we will continue "Window Visits" in our Multi-Purpose Room. The weather has been cooperating well and we have enjoyed seeing our families return (with their face masks) to the Home. We encourage you to speak directly to your assigned social worker to coordinate a "Window Visit." There have been some minor restrictions with window visiting due to the recent positive test results. Therefore, please call your social worker for specific details.

Some of our families have inquired about our new admission process. In August, we accepted 32 new admissions of non-COVID veterans, spouses and widows. All new admissions require a negative COVID-19 test prior to arrival. Once here, the new admission is retested upon arrival for the virus and quarantined for a two-week period. After the two-week quarantine, the resident is then tested again and if negative, transferred to a different unit in our building. Our process is working, and we continue to assist veterans and their families as it relates to long-term care needs.

Just a quick reminder about a novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) experimental vaccine. Stony Brook Medicine has received approval from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to participate in vaccine trials. Residents who have never had the virus can participate. We have also been told that family members who have not had the virus can participate if they are willing to be monitored after receiving a vaccine at the Stony Brook Medicine facility in Commack, Long Island. We will have more information in the weeks ahead. Please know that we remain excited to participate in an NIH Vaccine Trial.

We continue to appreciate your perseverance and strength, as together we weather this public health crisis. We hope that you are remaining safe and practicing the **3W's**

Wear Your Masks
Wash Your Hands
Watch Your Distance

Together, we will get through this. Please call us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

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