

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 complete day 686 in the fight against the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), we want to keep you informed on the current situation at the Long Island State Veterans Home. As of today, we have 24 residents that are positive for the virus. Twenty-three of these residents are here at the Home. All of these residents are properly cohorted, quarantined, and offered Sotrovimab monoclonal antibody treatment. One of our residents is currently being treated at Stony Brook Hospital.

For the past week, we have been monitoring the Suffolk County COVID-19 positivity rate with tentative optimism. Today's COVID-19 positivity rate for Suffolk County was 14.4% and the seven-day rolling average is 18.3% compared to 28% just a few weeks ago. The Omicron variant may be starting to trend downward in our region. Although a downward trend on the numbers is in progress, we continue to ask you to practice the 3W's (***Wear a Mask, Wash Your Hands, Watch Your Distance***) as we battle against the third wave of the virus.

As it relates to our workforce, we are pleased to report that the number of COVID-19 positive employees has improved greatly. Currently, six staff members (all fully vaccinated) are positive for COVID-19. These employees have mild to no symptoms and are all quarantining at home. We continue to provide contact tracing and potential exposure testing for all employees and residents as per federal and state regulations.

Last week, Governor Hochul proposed mandatory boosters for all healthcare workers in New York State. As of this writing, we still have not received any specific guidelines from the New York State Department of Health. We remain prepared to implement any new vaccine mandate and continue to offer onsite booster clinics for all employees. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) shortened the amount of time Moderna recipients need to wait to get a booster dose from six months to five months, aligning the timeline with Pfizer-BioNTech's vaccine. We anticipate more employees being eligible for the booster at this time. Our next clinic will be on Friday, January 21, 2022 offering the Pfizer and Moderna booster vaccine.

We would like to remind families of the new Department of Health guidance requiring all nursing home visitors to be tested for COVID-19 prior to visiting. All visitors are required to show a negative COVID-19 test result. A rapid antigen test taken within 24-hours of the visit or a PCR test taken within 48-hours will be accepted. If you are unable to obtain a COVID-19 test in the required timeframe, a limited number of iHealth COVID-19 rapid antigen home test kits will be

available for visitor use. Please visit the attached link for directions on how to use the iHealth test - [How to use the iHealth COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test - YouTube](#).

If you have a COVID-19 test report within the required timeframe, please bring the result with you for authorization prior to your visit. If your test is an at-home test, please take a photo of the final result and be prepared to present the photo at the screening desk. If you are unable to obtain a test prior to visiting, please enter the facility and obtain a test kit from the screening desk. You will be required to return to your car and follow the directions to administer the test to yourself. All visitors must be able to self-administer the test. Staff will be available to help facilitate and provide instructional assistance from 7 AM to 4 PM. After waiting the allotted time, you will be able to check the results. If the test is positive, please do not re-enter the facility. You are instructed to return home and follow CDC guidance for when it is safe to return to visit. If your iHealth COVID-19 test is negative, please bring the test kit to the screening desk for verification. We appreciate your patience as we strive to abide by ever-changing regulations and continue to work to keep our residents and staff safe.

We want to remind you that our next Family Council Zoom call will be on Friday, January 21, 2022 at 11:00 AM. The link to the Zoom meeting will be made available to family members through our AMG Alert system on Thursday morning. We look forward to being with all of you on the call. Please know that you never need a Family Council meeting to have your questions or concerns answered. We are always available to you. Never hesitate to reach out.

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

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

Anshu Singh, MD
Medical Director
631-444-8602

Christopher Brancato, RN
Director of Nursing
631-444-8707

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