

Long Island State Veterans Home



AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

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Dear LISVH Family Member:

As we complete day number 325 in our ongoing fight with the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), and continue confronting the post-holiday surge that began a few weeks ago, we want to bring you the latest information. We believe our recent spike in cases has peaked, and we should begin to see a steady decline in the days and weeks ahead.

As of today, we have 42 residents who are positive for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Twenty-two are at the Home, all properly cohorted and quarantined. Currently 20 residents are receiving treatment at Stony Brook University Hospital. Since we last wrote to you on Friday, we have had two residents succumb to the COVID-19 virus. We lost a 100-year old World War II Army veteran, as well as an 84-year old Army veteran of the Vietnam War. Both had multiple comorbidities prior to having the virus. These Army veterans remind us that the strength of our nation is based on all those who answer the call of military service. Their decisive actions helped to protect our great nation and all the liberties and freedoms we enjoy each and every day. The LISVH community grieves for our families during their time of loss.

Our current work force of 675 employees has been impacted by the virus as well. Since March 10, 2021, we have had 241 employees contract the virus. Currently, 54 employees are quarantining at their homes, in full compliance with all federal, state and local regulations. We have had 187 members of our staff fully recover and return to work. Swab testing for COVID-19 remains ongoing and we continue to closely monitor the results. Our practice remains to err on the side of caution in all cases with our dedicated employees, and to always take the proper actions necessary to protect the overall LISVH community.

Today represents day two in our second 3-day vaccine campaign with our partners from CVS Pharmacy. As you will recall, CVS Pharmacy was here last December 28, 29 and 30, 2020 to administer first doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to eligible residents and employees. CVS is now with us (January 18, 19, 20, 2021) to administer second doses to everyone who received a first dose back in December. They will also administer first doses to newly eligible residents as well as additional employees. The vaccination process is going very well and we again salute the team from CVS Pharmacy for their dedication and professionalism.

We have received multiple inquiries from families about the relationship of vaccine administration to reopening the LISVH for visitation. While there is no direct correlation, we do believe we are headed in the right direction. We monitor every briefing provided and continue to meet all the requirements as set forth by the Centers for Disease Control, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, the New York State Department of Health and our Suffolk County Department of Health (regulatory agencies). We want to return to normal, which includes your ability to visit your loved one. We will continue to do our best to get there. Your patience and ongoing fortitude is very much appreciated.

We hope that all our family members are continuing to pursue the COVID-19 vaccine, as we want everyone protected. In addition, please continue to remain vigilant when it comes to **wearing a mask, washing your hands and watching your distance**. We are still all in this together. Please call us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

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