

Long Island State Veterans Home



AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

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Dear LISVH Family Member:

As we close out another week in our ongoing fight against the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), we want to continue in our efforts to communicate with you on a timely basis. With the inauguration of our 46th President now completed and with January quickly coming to a close, we are still experiencing a post-holiday surge here at the Long Island State Veterans Home. Simultaneously, we have been able to roll out the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to both our resident population and employees. The vaccine has brought about a feeling of hope, as we all work hard to try to end this unprecedented global pandemic. Regardless, we cannot let our guard down, as we remain committed to our mission of “Caring for America’s Heroes.”

Today, we have 44 residents who are currently positive for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Twenty residents are here at the Home, all properly cohorted and quarantined. Twenty-three residents are at Stony Brook University Hospital receiving treatment. We also have one resident at Stony Brook Southampton Hospital. Most of our hospitalized veterans are awaiting a negative swab test for the virus before they can return to the LISVH. What we have seen during this pandemic is that it is more difficult for the frail, elderly population to test negative for the virus after having had this illness. We continue to monitor the status of all our hospitalized residents on a daily basis, and thank our colleagues throughout the Stony Brook Medicine System for their care of your loved one.

Since our last letter to you on Tuesday, we had one of our veterans succumb to the COVID-19 virus. We lost a 96-year old World War II Coast Guard veteran. This veteran during his time in the service always lived the Coast Guard motto “Semper Paratus,” which translated means “Always Ready.” The Coast Guard is an important branch of the Armed Forces and now part of the Department of Homeland Security. We send our deepest condolences to the family and friends of this veteran, as we remain grateful for his sacrifice of military service to protect the freedoms we enjoy today.

Our work force numbers continue to change on a daily basis. Since March 10, 2020, 247 of our 675 employees have contracted the virus. Fifty of these caregivers and ancillary staff are currently quarantining at their homes, while 197 have fully recovered and have returned to work. Swab testing remains robust as we continue to provide in-house testing three days a week (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday) for all our staff.

Earlier this week, we completed round two of our COVID-19 vaccine administration with the CVS Pharmacy team. They administered second doses to all residents and employees who had received their first dose back in December. CVS also gave first doses of the COVID-19 to newly eligible residents as well as to additional employees. First timers are scheduled to receive their second dose from CVS on February 8, 9 and 10, 2021. We once again salute the pharmacy team from CVS, as their team members were professional, courteous and efficient. When we complete our third round, we will share our vaccination rates with you.

Please continue to stay safe and know that we are always available to speak with you. Enjoy your weekend.

Sincerely,

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