

Long Island State Veterans Home



AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

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January 4, 2022

Dear LISVH Family Member:

As we begin 2022, we want to take this opportunity to update you on our current situation at the Long Island State Veterans Home. Today we are completing Day 672 in our fight against the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). As we begin our third year in this ongoing pandemic, we remain committed to providing all our families with accurate updates on a timely basis. We began writing to you in March of 2020. We will continue to bring you up to date every Tuesday and Friday until the end.

Here is our latest situation. As of today, we have **eleven (11) residents** that tested positive for the virus. Three of these residents are receiving care at Stony Brook University Hospital and the remaining are here at the Home, all properly quarantined and cohorted. In addition, we currently have **32 employees** (all fully vaccinated) who are positive for the virus. The majority of these employees have mild to no symptoms and are all quarantining at home.

With the Christmas and New Year's celebrations behind us, we predict that we will see a continued rise in cases for the next few weeks. Yesterday's positivity rate for COVID-19 in Suffolk County was 28.1% and the seven-day positivity rate is currently 26.6%. Unfortunately, Suffolk County has one of the highest rates in New York State.

Due to infection prevention protocols, the facility has placed all units on COVID-19 Exposure Precautions until 1/17/2022. Visitation on COVID Exposed Units is allowed but highly discouraged until the end of the quarantine (exposure) period. Visits may still occur in resident rooms on the exposed units. As per New York State Department of Health guidance, visitation will remain open, however we must caution all visitors that we are in an outbreak investigation due to positive test results among staff and residents, and you are at increased risk for exposure to COVID-19 when visiting at this time. Visitors will be provided with proper personal protective equipment and infection prevention education. Due to COVID infection control protocols, residents on quarantined units are not permitted to leave the unit. Please note that only two visitors may be in the resident's room at any time.

While we strongly discourage visiting at this time, if you do come, please adhere to the following guidance:

- If you do not feel well, do not visit.
- Visitors must wear masks at all times.
- All visitors are encouraged to be tested for COVID-19, within 2-3 days before their visit.
- All visitors are encouraged to be vaccinated for COVID-19.
- All visitors under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.
- No more than two individuals are permitted in an elevator at any given time.
- All visitors will be screened upon entrance. Visitors who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will not be granted entrance.
- After screening, all visitors should report directly to the resident room / designated visiting location, and remain in that location for the duration of the visit.
- No more than two visitors per resident are allowed for an in-room visit, due to social distancing requirements.
- If a resident or a visitor requests additional individuals to be present, facility staff will offer alternative visiting space, if available, to accommodate their request.
- All visitors should physically distance from other residents and staff of the facility.
- Hand hygiene is required prior to and after each visit.
- Consumption of food items should not occur during any in-room visit.
- The Garden Grill Café is closed to visitors at this time.
- No pets are allowed at this time.
- Visitors may use the restroom in the lobby only.

Visitation is contingent on compliance with these guidelines. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

In closing, please know that we are in the midst of a major uptick of cases. While the current variant appears to be less fatal, it is highly contagious. Your ongoing commitment to getting a booster vaccine as well as practicing the 3 W's (Wear a Mask, Wash your Hands and Watch your Distance) will go a long way in defeating the virus. We hope that 2022 will get us "closer to normal," but everyone must do their part. Please reach out to us if we can assist in any way.

Happy New Year,

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