

Long Island State Veterans Home



AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

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January 5, 2021

Dear LISVH Family Member:

As we begin the New Year and reach day number 301 in our battle against the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), we want to continue our commitment in providing you with the latest happenings at the Long Island State Veterans Home. Our ongoing goal is to sustain our transparency until the end of this enduring global pandemic. We remain committed to you, our family, and friends.

Since we wrote to you, our nation, our state, and our county have reached new novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) numbers as follows:

USA:	21,098,000 cases	356,048 deaths
New York:	1,051,242 cases	38,333 deaths
Suffolk County:	103,232 cases	2,381 deaths

These new high numbers reflect the post-holiday surge that has dramatically impacted all parts of the country as well as our local region.

As of today, we have a total of 39 residents who are currently positive for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Twenty-seven residents are here at the Home properly cohorted and quarantined, and 12 residents are at Stony Brook University Hospital receiving treatment. Unfortunately, our recent internal surge of COVID-19 cases parallels what we are seeing nationwide, statewide and locally. Also, since we last wrote to you, we lost four more veterans to this elusive and wicked virus. Sorrowfully, we lost a 95-year old World War II Navy veteran, an 88-year old Korean War Army veteran, an 86-year old Korean War Air Force veteran, and a 71-year old Vietnam veteran who served in the Navy. All our veterans had multiple comorbidities, which most likely contributed to them succumbing to the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). All four wore the uniform and were part of the one percent of Americans who have answered the call to defend our nation and the principles of our democracy. Our staff is deeply grieving the loss of these beloved members of the LISVH community. We extend our deepest condolences to their family and friends.

We want to update you on our work force as well. As you know, we have 675 full-time, part-time and per-diem employees. Since March 10, 2020, we have had 211 employees tests positive for the novel Coronavirus. Forty-two are currently quarantining at Home and 169 are fully recovered and have returned to work. Full-time employees must be swab tested twice a week for the virus and all active employees are complying with the testing mandate. Also, we continue to have all the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) including surgical masks, N-95 respirator masks, face shields, eye goggles and disposable gowns. Our quantity of PPE meets all the requirements as set forth by the New York State Department of Health.

With the New Year just five days old, we remain optimistic about the immediate future. Our vaccine program with CVS got off to a great start in late December, and they will be back in two weeks to implement Phase II of the rollout. Please know that all of us here at the Long Island State Veterans Home remain focused on the care provided to your loved one. If we can be of any further assistance to you, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. Happy New Year again.

Sincerely,

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