

# Long Island State Veterans Home



AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

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January 8, 2021

Dear LISVH Family Member:

As we close out another week, we want to take this opportunity to bring you up to date on the current situation here at the Long Island State Veterans Home as well as in our local area. Suffolk County continues to experience a post-holiday surge of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). As of today, the County has exceeded 110,200 cases of the virus and 2,432 people have succumbed to this wicked and elusive illness. Countywide, vaccination programs are being rolled out and we hope that this will help to curb the surge in progress.

As of today, we have 43 residents who are currently positive for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Twenty-nine residents are here at the Home, all properly cohorted and quarantined, while 14 residents are currently receiving treatment at Stony Brook University Hospital. Sadly, we lost three residents since we last wrote to you earlier this week. Our loss includes a 93-year old World War II Navy veteran, an 89-year old spouse of a World War II Marine Corps veteran, and an 87-year old Korean War veteran of the United States Army. All three residents had multiple comorbidities, which most likely contributed to them passing away. The LISVH community grieves for their families as we recognize the service of all our veterans as well as their spouses. We will never forget that “freedom is not free,” and never take for granted all the liberties we enjoy today as Americans. Our deepest condolences go out to all their loved ones at this time of sorrow.

Our number of employees impacted by the virus has increased as well. As of March 10, 2020, of our 675 caregivers and ancillary staff, 211 have tested positive for COVID-19. Forty-five of our staff are currently quarantining at home. One hundred seventy-two of our staff are fully recovered and have returned to work. Swab testing remains very active and full-time employees continue to be tested twice a week.

Starting tomorrow, we are adding another treatment option for our residents. Recently the federal government through the Department of Health and Human Services has made the Lilly product Bamlanivimab available to nursing homes nationwide. Bamlanivimab is a monoclonal antibody treatment for high-risk residents with mild to moderate symptoms of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Our pharmacy has secured the product and our physicians and nurses will administer “BAM” to any resident who meets the treatment protocol and signs the required consent. By providing Bamlanivimab here at the Home, we may be able to avoid unnecessary hospitalization as well. We are glad to offer this option to our residents.

CVS Pharmacy will be returning to LISVH on January 18, 19 and 20, 2021. All residents and employees who received their first dose of the Pfizer vaccine will get their second booster shot during these three days. We will be reaching out to health care proxies to obtain a new consent for the second dose. Please look out for an email or phone call to obtain the second consent. We appreciate your assistance with this part of the process.

Please continue to practice the 3 W's (***Wear a Mask, Wash Your Hands and Watch Your Distance***). We would also encourage you to take the COVID-19 vaccine, should it be made available to you. As always, we remain available to answer all your questions and concerns.

Sincerely,

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