

Long Island State Veterans Home



AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

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November 16, 2021

Dear LISVH Family Member:

As we complete day 616 in the fight against the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), we are pleased to report that we are COVID-19 free as it relates to our resident population. We have only two staff members who currently have the virus. Both employees have no symptoms and are properly quarantined in their own homes.

While things are stable at the Home, Suffolk County saw a post-Halloween uptick in cases. Yesterday's COVID-19 positivity rate was 3.4% and the seven-day average is 3.2%. On a positive note, 996,026 individuals have received the vaccine in our county. Also, please be aware that children between the ages of 5 and 12 can now receive the vaccine. The decision to vaccinate should be discussed with your pediatrician.

This week we are administering Moderna booster vaccines for both residents and employees at our facility. We continue to maintain excellent vaccination rates for our resident population and staff members. The Home is committed to following all federal and state guidelines related to future recommended booster vaccines.

Thanksgiving is a week away and those of you who want to bring your loved one home for the holiday should alert your social worker and charge nurse as soon as possible. We do believe that securing private ambulance transportation will be difficult this year. In addition, transporting your family member in your own vehicle will require proper clearance from our Rehab Department. It is extremely important that car transfer training is scheduled well in advance of your departure date. Regretfully, due to strict infection control and prevention guidelines, we will be unable to accommodate our traditional Thanksgiving meals for our families at the Home this year. Nursing homes still have strict social distancing requirements and must follow the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention that make it impossible to include you - our families. Again, communication is key and we ask that you alert us if you plan to bring your loved one home for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Late last Friday afternoon, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) revised federal guidance for nursing homes on visitation. The new guidance significantly relaxes the rules that have been in effect to date, and we await interpretation of these new directions from our New York State Department of Health. When we have more information, we will certainly share it with all of you.

As always, we thank you for your patience and support as we comply with the ever-changing myriad of regulations from federal, state and local government. Our goal remains to keep your loved one and those that care for them safe. Your cooperation is always appreciated.

Our next Family Council Zoom meeting has been rescheduled to Monday, November 22, 2021 at 3:00pm. The link to the Zoom meeting will be distributed to family members via the AMG alert system on Monday morning. We hope that you will be able to join us for this monthly update to our families. Please know that you never have to wait for a meeting to reach out to us. We are always here for you.

Sincerely,

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