

Long Island State Veterans Home



AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

100 Patriots Road
Stony Brook, NY 11790-3300
P 631.444.8500
F 631.444.8575
LISVH.org

November 20, 2020

Dear LISVH Family Member:

We have had a busy week here at the Home. With cases of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) spiking in Suffolk County, we have had some additional activity as well. Suffolk County has just surpassed 55,000 cases since March of 2020. Total deaths due to the virus are now at 2,030. Clearly, there has been a sharp increase in the numbers for the past 10 days.

As of today, we have 11 residents who are currently positive for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). All are asymptomatic, and are properly cohorted and quarantined. Due to the increased testing of our residents, we have been able to quickly identify anyone with the virus. Once discovered, we are following the recommended guidance of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) to thwart any spread of the virus. As it relates to our work force, we have had 157 of our 675 employees test positive for the virus since March 10, 2020. Seven employees are currently quarantining at home, while 150 have fully recovered and returned to work. We continue to meet the Governor's Executive Order of weekly testing of all nursing home employees. The Executive Order is in effect until December 3, 2020; however, we anticipate that the deadline will once again be extended.

With Thanksgiving less than a week away, we have received additional guidelines from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as well as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Understandably, there is concern about travel at this time and the size of holiday gatherings. We felt an obligation to share these alerts with you as well. With more than one million new COVID-19 cases reported in the United States over the last seven days, the virus continues to be strong and elusive. We are hoping that you minimize your chances of being infected. Due to the recent resurgence of COVID-19 in our community, it is the recommendation of CMS and the Long Island State Veterans Home that families refrain from requesting your loved one to be out of the facility during the Thanksgiving holiday. Please be aware that any resident who leaves the building for the holiday will be quarantined for 14 days upon return on an observation unit and subject to additional COVID-19 tests. The links to these new CDC and CMS alerts are listed below for your immediate review;

CDC Holiday Guidance: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html>

CMS Holiday Recommendations: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/covid-facility-holiday-recommendations.pdf>

We all know that Thanksgiving 2020 will feel different; however, our top priority is to maintain the safety and comfort of your loved one here at the Home. We are asking you to share the latest advisories with family and friends. The decisions you make matter. We urge you to err on the side of safety. As always, please don't hesitate to contact us for further information. We hope you have an enjoyable weekend.

Sincerely,

Fred S. Sganga, FACHE
Executive Director
631-444-8606

Jonathan Spier, MHA, LNHA
Deputy Executive Director
631-444-8615

Frank Cervo, MD
Medical Director
631-444-8602

Rona Schlau, RN
Director of Nursing
631-444-8707

Jean Brand, MSW
Director of ADHC
631-444-8530