

Long Island State Veterans Home



AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

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Dear LISVH Family Member:

As we prepare for the Thanksgiving holiday, we want to update you on our ongoing battle against the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Relaying essential information to our families on a timely and transparent basis is important to us, especially as we continue to endure this global pandemic.

Earlier today, we had another unannounced visit from the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). The purpose of this visit was to conduct another focused Infection Control review. This has been our eighth review since we began the COVID-19 journey back on March 10, 2020. The four-member survey team spent today overseeing medical records as well as performing a comprehensive assessment of our policies, procedures and practices related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The NYSDOH reviewed protocols for infection control, cleaning and disinfection, and COVID-19 testing of our residents and staff. The surveyors conducted a complete physical inspection of all nursing units and interviewed both residents and staff members. In addition, the NYSDOH inspected our current inventory of personal protective equipment (PPE) and reviewed established mechanisms to maintain adequate supplies. Once again, we are pleased to report that the survey teams had no recommendations or findings. As a result of this review, the Long Island State Veterans Home continues to be in compliance with NYSDOH standards and requirements. Please know that we value these unannounced reviews, as they help to validate the care we provide to our veterans each day.

As novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) endures, our number of residents who are currently positive remains at 11. All are asymptomatic, properly cohorted, and quarantined. As each resident completes a 14-day quarantine and tests negative, he/she will be relocated once again. Since our letter last Friday, we have had two additional employees test positive for the virus. Our total count of positive employees has reached 159. Currently, 9 of these employees are quarantining at home and 150 have fully recovered and returned to work. We once again have moved the target date for limited face-to-face visitation. The new date will be Friday, December 4, 2020. We recognize the frustration that is created every time we change the date. While we too share your frustration, we remain extremely grateful that all our current positive cases remain asymptomatic. As we get closer to this date, your Social Worker will contact you to schedule the date and time of your visit.

Earlier today, the New York State Department of Health provided guidelines related to nursing home residents who leave a facility for the holidays. (Click here to view the latest [New York State Department of Health Advisory : November 24, 2020.](#)) These requirements are similar to previous guidance issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. **The new regulations will require the returning resident to have a negative COVID-19 test immediately (within 24 hours) prior to returning to the Long Island State Veterans Home.** The returning resident will have to quarantine for a 14-day period and be COVID-19 tested at least three times during this time period. We believe it will be very difficult to secure a diagnostic swab test on Thanksgiving, therefore, you may have to keep the resident with you a number of days beyond the actual holiday. As a result of these new guidelines, we are strongly discouraging taking your loved one home for Thanksgiving.

We understand that for many of us, the Thanksgiving holiday will feel different; however, for our residents here at the Home it won't taste different!!! Chef Jeff and his team are cooking up a traditional meal that will include turkey, stuffing, candied yams, green bean casserole as well as cranberry sauce, followed with some pumpkin pie. For those residents who don't enjoy turkey, alternatives are available including filet mignon. We hope your loved one will enjoy their choices on Thursday and we hope that your holiday is safe as well.

Lastly, the support of our family members has been immeasurable. Thank you to all those who have called and/or written. We are delivering your messages to the staff and sharing your kind words with them. We can't thank you enough as we continue to endure this unprecedented event. As the holiday season approaches, we would kindly remind families that we are unable to accept any deliveries for the staff (including food/flowers/perishable items) due to the current COVID-19 infection control protocols that are in place. In your efforts to acknowledge our staff, we must ask you to refrain from sending any of these items to the Home. However, cards, letters and videos continue to be welcomed. Please know, your overwhelming understanding and continuous support mean a great deal to the LISVH staff. Happy Thanksgiving to all.

Sincerely,

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