

Long Island State Veterans Home



AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

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December 11, 2020

Dear LISVH Family Member:

It has been a busy week here at the Home as we continue to battle the elusive and fatal Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). We are feeling the effects of a post-Thanksgiving surge and want to share the latest statistics with you. We anticipate that the USA will exceed 16 million cases over the weekend and unfortunately surpass 300,000 COVID-19 deaths as well. Here in Suffolk County, we have exceeded 72,000 cases of the virus and have had 2,101 deaths from this illness as well. While the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine administration is just around the corner, we all must remain committed to the established preventative measures to contain the virus. Wearing a mask, washing your hands and watching your distance matters. Please, continue to practice these guidelines, so we can all remain safe.

Specifically at the LISVH, we currently have 23 residents who have tested positive for the virus. Sixteen of the residents have been properly cohorted and quarantined here at the Home and the remaining seven are receiving treatment at Stony Brook University Hospital. Continued testing and ongoing surveillance remains strong, as we continue to monitor the post-Thanksgiving uptick in cases.

In regards to our 675 caregivers and ancillary staff, we have had 167 employees test positive for the virus since March 10, 2020. Twelve are currently quarantining at home and 155 have fully recovered and returned to work. Testing of employees continues to occur weekly. At any time, if the New York State Department of Health designates the area and/or neighborhood around the Home as a micro-cluster location, we will return to twice a week COVID-19 testing of all employees. Again, we will continue to alert you to our condition on a timely basis.

We would also like to update you on the status on the COVID-19 vaccine. Earlier this week we attended a webinar and was informed that the Long Island State Veterans Home is preliminarily scheduled to receive the Pfizer vaccine on or about December 29, 2020. The federal government has contracted with CVS Pharmacy to administer the vaccine to all nursing home residents and employees. Thankfully, nursing homes have been designated as a top priority. CVS will come to the Veterans Home and work with our caregivers on administering the vaccine. We anticipate vaccine information and consent forms for our residents/families and employees to be provided by CVS Pharmacy next week. We are grateful for this partnership with CVS and look forward to better protecting our residents and staff. We will certainly provide more specific information as we get closer to “V-day.”

In closing, please know that we are in holiday mode. The Christmas trees and menorah lights are up and holiday music is in full swing on all our nursing units. We are grateful to our chaplains, Father Tom, Rabbi Joe and Reverend Leonard, for all their efforts in preparing our residents and staff for both Hanukkah and Christmas. We hope that you are safely preparing in your homes as well.

As always, we remain a phone call away.

Sincerely,

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