

Long Island State Veterans Home



AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

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Fred S. Sganga, FACHE
Executive Director

December 18, 2020

Dear LISVH family member:

As we close another week in our battle against the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), we want to take this opportunity to update you on our situation here at the Long Island State Veterans Home. We remain committed to providing you with timely information on how the virus is affecting our organization.

Across the nation, there has been over 17.5 million COVID-19 cases that led to over 314,000 deaths from this deadly and elusive virus. In Suffolk County, we now have had close to 80,000 cases of the virus and 2,160 deaths as well. Unfortunately, our region continues to spike in cases and deaths since the Thanksgiving holiday. We will continue to monitor the numbers both nationally and locally.

Today, we have 33 residents who are positive for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Twenty-seven are here at the Home, all properly cohorted and quarantined. Six residents are receiving treatment at Stony Brook University Hospital. We are saddened to report that one of our veterans, who had the virus, passed away yesterday. This veteran was at the Home for end of life care and had multiple cardiac comorbidities. A veteran of the United States Army, we extend our deepest condolences to his family and friends. His passing reminds us how indebted we are to all the brave women and men who wore the uniform to protect the freedom we enjoy today.

As you may know, we have 675 full time, part time and per diem employees. Since March 10, 2020, 181 employees have tested positive for the virus. Currently, 21 employees are on quarantine in their homes while 160 have fully recovered and returned to work. We continue to test each employee every week, remaining in compliance with the Governor's Executive Order for all nursing home employees.

We are now very focused on our upcoming "V-Day." As mentioned before, CVS is scheduled to be here on Monday, December 28, 2020 to administer the vaccine to all residents and approximately one third of our employees. As it relates to our residents, we need to secure consent from each of their health care proxies. Earlier today, we reached out to every health care proxy of our residents. Our goal is to secure your email,

so that we can send you an electronic version of the CVS Pharmacy Consent Form. If you are the health care proxy and do not have an email account, we will arrange for you to sign a paper consent prior to December 28, 2020. We are strongly recommending that all residents take the 2-dose Pfizer vaccine, even if they already had the virus. We will provide every proxy with a Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet as well as a CDC Vaccine Fact Sheet.

Earlier today, Vice President Pence took his first dose of the Pfizer vaccine, leading by example as we try to bring finality to this global pandemic. Vaccines have played a tremendous role in ending many major illnesses and we feel fortunate to be one of the first organizations to have access to this important treatment. **Again, if you are the health care proxy, please contact your Social Worker on Monday, December 21, 2020 to be certain that we have consent to administer the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine to your loved one.**

Please continue to stay safe and do not hesitate to reach out to us if we can be of any additional assistance to you.

Sincerely,

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