

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

December 21, 2021

Dear LISVH Family Member:

With the Christmas Holiday upon us, we want to take this opportunity to update you on our latest situation at the Long Island State Veterans Home. We are pleased to report that we have **no cases** of COVID-19 among our resident population at this time. We currently have four employees recovering from the COVID-19 virus. All four vaccinated employees have mild to no symptoms and are quarantining in their own homes. We continue to test residents and personnel as per federal, state and local regulations, and will alert you to any additional positive cases.

Currently, there is a tremendous amount of COVID-19 activity in our region due to the Delta and Omicron variants. Both highly contagious, these variants are impacting Suffolk County at this time. Today's positivity rate for Suffolk County was 13.7% and the seven-day average is at 10.6%. There were 313 individuals hospitalized for the virus in various Suffolk County hospitals yesterday. Fifty-one of these patients were on ventilators. Your best defense against the virus is to be vaccinated. If you are currently eligible for a booster, we strongly urge you to discuss the situation with your personal physician and consider getting one. Also, we encourage you to practice the 3W's (***Wear a Mask, Wash Your Hands, Watch Your Distance***) – especially in indoor settings.

While some of our families are considering taking their loved one home for the holiday, we are **highly discouraging** this activity at this time. With the community rate of COVID-19 increasing by approximately 1,600 new cases per day, the smarter and safer decision will be to keep your loved one at the Home. Please know that resident safety remains our top priority. The COVID-19 positivity rate will eventually go down over time. We are urging our families to make the right choice at the moment and **do not** take your loved one home for the holiday. Keeping our Home COVID-19 free involves some sacrifice and tough choices. If we all work together, we can remain safe – even in the midst of a contagious outbreak.

We continue to need your assistance in preventing the spread of COVID-19. We ask all families and friends to review [our Visitation Guidelines](#) before coming to the Home. **We would like to remind families and friends to NOT VISIT the nursing home if you are not feeling well.** We are requiring all visitors to wear a mask throughout your entire visit regardless of your vaccination status. Due to infection prevention measures in place, guests are restricted to visit in the resident's room or to specifically assigned locations. Visitors are not permitted to travel throughout the building, dine in our café or participate in or attend recreation programs, including religious services, at this time.

We encourage all visitors to check our website to determine if the unit you are visiting is on exposure precautions. If your loved one's unit is on exposure precautions, you will be provided with appropriate personal protective equipment, infection prevention education, and will be directed to visit in the resident's room. Due to infection prevention protocols, residents on exposure precautions will not be permitted to leave the unit and any visits scheduled to take place in the private visitation area (Unit 1B rooms) will be converted to in-room visits on their unit.

The Christmas spirit is in full force at the Home, with our Therapeutic Recreation Department keeping our residents actively engaged in a variety of holiday activities. We are continuing to follow all required infection prevention protocols to celebrate in a safe and healthy manner. You can always view our therapeutic recreation calendar on our website, and see all the latest activities taking place.

Chef Jeff and his culinary team are preparing the Christmas Day lunch to be served on Saturday. Our menu includes prime rib au jus served with a twice-baked potato and turnips. Our dessert will include a fruit ambrosia. As always, we offer alternatives to all our lunch and dinner selections.

There will be no letter on Christmas Eve, however any immediate updates will be sent to you via the AMG Alert system or by checking our website. We will update you again on Tuesday, December 28, 2022. We want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and hope that your holiday is full of peace and joy. If we can be of further assistance, do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Sincerely,

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

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

Anshu Singh, MD
Medical Director
631-444-8602

Christopher Brancato, RN
Director of Nursing
631-444-8707

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