

# Long Island State Veterans Home



AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

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Dear LISVH Family Member:

As we begin our Christmas holiday weekend, we want to bring you up to date on the current situation here at the Long Island State Veterans Home. Keeping you updated remains our top priority. We are grateful to all of our families for your perseverance and strength throughout 2020.

Today we have twenty-one residents who are positive for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Thirteen are here at the home, all properly cohorted and quarantined. Eight residents are currently receiving treatment at Stony Brook University Hospital. We are saddened to report that we lost one of our veterans last evening to the virus. A 95-year-old World War II Army veteran who served in the European Theater during the war. This veteran had multiple comorbidities in addition to the COVID-19 virus. The entire LISVH family mourns the loss of this member of the “Greatest Generation.” This veteran’s sacrifice of military service reminds us why we live in the greatest democracy in the world. Like all of our veterans here at the Home, we never take for granted all they have done for us during their lifetime.

On the employee front, out of our 675 full-time, part-time, and per-diem employees, 186 have tested positive for the virus since March 10, 2020. There are twenty-seven employees currently quarantining at their homes. One hundred and fifty-nine employees have fully recovered from the virus and have returned to work. We continue to test our employees every week, as we are committed to staying ahead of the virus.

Next week we will begin to roll out the Pfizer vaccine for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). CVS Pharmacy will send their inoculation team here next Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Our goal is to vaccinate all of our residents and approximately one third of our workforce. Vaccination consents are being secured as we write to you and we are fully prepared to work with CVS Pharmacy personnel on

this milestone event. We are extremely optimistic about the vaccine. Pfizer has indicated that their vaccine has an efficacy of 95% that will mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and ensure the safety and well-being of our frail elderly veteran population. Every vaccine administered brings us a step closer to families finally reuniting in-person with their loved ones!

With Christmas Eve upon us, Chef Jeff and our kitchen staff are preparing our holiday meals. Christmas Eve we will be serving a fried fish basket that includes crab cakes, beer-battered shrimp, and green beans, as well as rainbow cookies for dessert. Tomorrow, we are serving New York Strip Sirloin Au Jus with roasted potatoes and asparagus for our Christmas Day meal, followed by Christmas Ambrosia for dessert. As always, alternatives are available to all of our residents, as we want to keep everyone happy.

We recognize that Christmas may look and feel different this year as we continue to endure this unprecedented public health event. Please know how honored we are to care for your loved one. With this vaccine in our grasp, we hope that we are now a day closer to returning to normal. For those celebrating Christmas, we wish you happiness and hope. Please know we remain available to assist you in any way.

Sincerely,

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