

Long Island State Veterans Home



AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

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December 31, 2021

Dear LISVH Family Member:

As we complete 2021 and look forward to a New Year tomorrow, we want to take this opportunity to update you on our latest situation at the Long Island State Veterans Home. We currently have six residents who are positive for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) at this time. Two of these residents are receiving care at Stony Brook University Hospital and four of them are here at the Home, all properly quarantined and cohorted. In addition, we have 29 employees (all fully vaccinated) that are positive for the virus. All of these employees are quarantining at home. Most of them have minor to no symptoms.

COVID-19 continues to escalate in our region. Yesterday's positivity rate in Suffolk County was 24.7% and the seven-day average is 19.2%. With New Year's Eve upon us, we would like to urge you to take proper precautions, especially at indoor gatherings this coming weekend. The latest variant of COVID-19 is incredibly contagious, so we anticipate that the above stated percentages will continue to rise in the days and weeks ahead. We ask you to do your part to prevent the spread and if you are not feeling well, avoid any visitation with your loved one.

Due to infection prevention protocols, the facility has placed all units on COVID-19 Exposure Precautions until 1/14/2022. Visitation on COVID Exposed Units is allowed but highly discouraged until the end of the quarantine (exposure) period. Visits may still occur in resident rooms on the exposed units. As per New York State Department of Health guidance, visitation will remain open, however we must caution all visitors that we are in an outbreak investigation due to positive test results among staff and residents, and you are at increased risk for exposure to COVID-19 when visiting at this time. Visitors will be provided with proper personal protective equipment and infection prevention education. Due to COVID infection control protocols, residents on quarantined units are not permitted to leave the unit. Please note that only two visitors may be in the resident's room at any time.

When visiting, please adhere to the following guidance:

- If you do not feel well, do not visit.
- Visitors must wear masks at all times.
- All visitors are encouraged to be tested for COVID-19, within 2-3 days before their visit.
- All visitors are encouraged to be vaccinated for COVID-19.
- All visitors under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.
- No more than two individuals are permitted in an elevator at any given time.
- All visitors will be screened upon entrance. Visitors who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will not be granted entrance.

- After screening, all visitors should report directly to the resident room / designated visiting location, and remain in that location for the duration of the visit.
- No more than two visitors per resident are allowed for an in-room visit, due to social distancing requirements.
- If a resident or a visitor requests additional individuals to be present, facility staff will offer alternative visiting space, if available, to accommodate their request.
- All visitors should physically distance from other residents and staff of the facility.
- Hand hygiene is required prior to and after each visit.
- Consumption of food items should not occur during any in-room visit.
- The Garden Grill Café is closed to visitors at this time.
- No pets are allowed at this time.
- Visitors may use the restroom in the lobby only.

Visitation is contingent on compliance with these guidelines. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

In closing, we would like to thank all of our families for their full cooperation this past year. With 2022 upon us, we will do everything possible to once again “Return to Normal,” while never compromising your loved one’s safety and comfort. Our Veterans, as well as their spouses and widows, remain our top priority. You can be sure that our staff will remain committed to our mission, vision and values throughout the New Year and beyond. We wish all the families a Happy and Healthy New Year. Please know we are just a phone call away. Never hesitate to call us.

Sincerely,

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