

Long Island State Veterans Home



AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

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December 7, 2021

Dear LISVH Family Member:

As we begin another week in our fight against the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), we want to update you on the latest situation at the Long Island State Veterans Home. We have had no new resident cases since our last community letter. Currently, we have one resident with COVID-19. This resident remains asymptomatic and is resting comfortably. The resident and his roommate have been properly cohorted and will be quarantined until December 10th. We currently have five employees positive for the COVID-19 virus. All five employees have mild to no symptoms at this time and are quarantining in their homes. We continue to actively test residents and staff based upon outbreak testing protocols established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the NYS Department of Health.

The post-Thanksgiving uptick in COVID-19 cases continues in Suffolk County. Yesterday's COVID-19 positivity rate was 6.2% and seven-day average is 6.2%. Additional cases of the Omicron variant have also been identified in our region. Our objective is to stay ahead of this virus and avoid a resurgence at the Home. We continue to track cases in our region and implore you to take all proper precautions while visiting friends and family in the community.

As it relates to visitation, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH) guidelines now allow for open visitation inside the facility even if a potential for COVID-19 exposure exists. Due to a recent positive COVID-19 employee on Unit 3B, visitation is allowed on the unit but highly discouraged through December 20th. All visitors will be provided with proper personal protective equipment and infection prevention education. Due to COVID infection control protocols, scheduled visits in the private visitation area for 3B residents will be converted to in-room visits. Please note that only two visitors may be in the resident's room at anytime. Alternative accommodations can be provided on the unit if necessary. We remind all families to check our website for the latest information related to your visit. All families who have signed up for the AMG Alert System will receive a notification of any new COVID-19 positive employees or residents. In addition, information will be provided through our website messaging and the posting of daily CMS Notification Letter in the COVID-19 section of our website. If you would like to be included in our AMG Alerts, please contact the Social Services Department (631-444-8545) to sign up.

With Christmas fast approaching, those of you who want to bring your loved one home for the holiday should alert your social worker as soon as possible. Similar, to the Thanksgiving holiday, we do believe that securing private ambulance transportation will be difficult this year. Please be

reminded, transporting your family member in your own vehicle will require proper clearance from our Rehab Department. It is extremely important that car transfer training is scheduled well in advance of your departure date. Regretfully, due to strict infection control and prevention guidelines, we will be unable to accommodate our Christmas meals for our families at the Home this year. Nursing homes still have strict social distancing requirements that make it impossible to include you – our families. Again, communication is key and we ask that you alert us if you plan to bring your loved one home for the Christmas holiday.

In closing, thank you for your ongoing attention to our Tuesday and Friday family correspondence. We remain committed to providing you timely and accurate information as the pandemic continues to endure. If you need us, please call us. We remain here for you.

Sincerely,

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