

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

February 19, 2021

Dear LISVH Family Member:

With another week in the battle against the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) completed, we want to continue to provide you with updates on the latest situation at our Home. As of today, we have six residents who are positive for COVID-19. Four of our residents are here at the Home. All four are asymptomatic, and are properly cohorted and quarantined. It also should be noted that each of these residents have tested positive multiple times since the beginning of the pandemic. As per state and federal guidance, we continue to take all proper precautions with these four residents. Two of our residents remain at Stony Brook University Hospital, both in stable condition. These two residents await a negative COVID-19 swab test before they can return to LISVH.

As it relates to our workforce numbers, 278 of our 675 employees have tested positive for the virus since last March. Currently, 24 staff members are at home quarantining and 254 have fully recovered and have returned to work. We are still swab testing employees and actively monitoring all the results at the time they are reported to us. Our employees remain vigilant with their testing responsibilities.

Just a quick update on the COVID-19 vaccine. As we have previously described, we had a successful partnership with CVS Omnicare. They have completed their preplanned three vaccine clinics. We have a small number of residents still awaiting one or two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. We are reaching out to all potential sources for additional vaccines, including Stony Brook Medicine and the Veterans Administration. We hope to secure additional immunizations shortly. We will provide updated information as we receive it.

We also want to notify you that our Therapeutic Recreation Department has been working with our community entertainers to develop customized programming on our closed circuit television channel for all residents. COVID-19 has eliminated live entertainment; however, we want to acknowledge Michelle Cheslak and our T.R. staff for their creativity in keeping our residents engaged while maintaining social distancing protocols. We look forward to the day when we can all gather in the Multipurpose Room for a function or an activity.

This afternoon, our Governor held a press conference that included a discussion on nursing homes. During the event, he referenced that nursing homes could reopen for visiting with the usage of rapid antigen testing and that they will provide the test kits to nursing homes. While this is wonderful news, we have not received any formal guidance from the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services, Centers for Disease Control or the New York State Department of Health. Please note that previous guidance from regulators has required that we have no cases of COVID-19 (for a 14-day period) among residents or staff before we can reopen for visitation. We are looking forward to receiving additional guidance from federal and state agencies, and subsequently sharing the details with you and your family.

In closing, please know that we have weathered all the recent snowstorms in stride and look forward to the arrival of spring. In the meantime, please reach out to us if we can be of further assistance to you.

Sincerely,

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

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

Frank Cervo, MD
Medical Director
631-444-8602

Rona Schlau, RN
Director of Nursing
631-444-8707

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