March 2, 2021

Dear LISVH Family Member:

As we begin a new month here at the Long Island State Veterans Home, we are pleased to update you on our situation regarding the battle against the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). As we approach our one-year anniversary, we want you to know that we are currently in a good place.

As of today, we have two residents who have tested positive for the virus and are properly quarantined and cohorted. Both residents are asymptomatic and are resting comfortably. We hope that they will be virus-free shortly.

In terms of our workforce, we have had 290 of our 675 employees test positive for the virus. Seventeen are currently quarantining at home and 273 have fully recovered and returned to work. Swab testing for employees continues, as it is our ongoing goal to stay ahead of this wicked and elusive virus.

We continue to pursue COVID-19 vaccines for the unvaccinated. Last Sunday, Stony Brook Medicine was able to vaccinate all our eligible Adult Day Health Care registrants and their qualified caregivers. Our veterans went to the Stony Brook Medicine Pod in Commack and received their first doses of the vaccine. While our Adult Day Health Care program is still temporarily suspended, we want to be ready when the New York State Department of Health gives us the approval to reopen. Having our ADHC registrants vaccinated is one important step in the process. In addition, five residents will be transported to the Northport VA Hospital this week to receive their second doses of the vaccine. We are committed to securing vaccines for all residents, ADHC registrants, and employees who want it. We will stay focused on this important goal.

With our COVID-19 numbers heading downward and the weather warming up, we are planning to reestablish “Operation Sunshine.” This program will allow our residents to get outside and enjoy the benefits of some sunshine and fresh air. We will keep you informed on our progress in the days and weeks ahead. As always, please reach out if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

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