

Long Island State Veterans Home



AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

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Dear LISVH Family Member:

As we come to the close of another week in our fight against the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), we want to once again update you on the latest situation at the Long Island State Veterans Home. We have now surpassed one full month without a single case of COVID-19 among our resident population. Our streak of no cases among our veterans, spouses and widows continues! As we work to stay ahead of the virus, we will continue to test our residents on a routine basis.

As of today, 318 of our 675 employees have tested positive for the virus since March 10, 2020. Nineteen employees are currently quarantining at home and 299 have fully recovered and have returned to work. All employees under quarantine have either mild symptoms or no symptoms at this time.

Earlier today we had our first ZOOM family council meeting. Thank you to Ellen Lindberg for helping to coordinate this event. For 90 minutes, we had an open and transparent discussion with our families. You all graciously allowed us to give you our current assessment of the COVID-19 situation at our Home and provided us with thoughtful recommendations that we can consider going forward. In addition, we had a detailed discussion on the newly released [New York State Department of Health Visitation Guidelines](#) for Skilled Nursing Facilities. The guideline are attached in the link above.

While the new visitation guidelines are a step forward, there are still significant consequences for a nursing home should a resident or employee test positive for COVID-19. Nursing homes with an outbreak (one positive test result) limited to a single area or unit, based on outbreak testing, may allow residents in the unaffected units to have visitors. The guidance includes a testing and visitation suspension protocol to determine whether the outbreak is confined. If an employee on a different unit tests positive, general visitation for the entire facility will be temporarily suspended. In light of this new guidance, we have recently increased the amount of compassionate visits, and after today's ZOOM family council, we are directing our efforts and resources to substantially increase the amount of these special visits. We urge all our families to contact their individual social worker to schedule a visit

Please understand that we are navigating a "return to normal" while attempting to avoid a "third wave" of this wicked and elusive virus. It's an incredible balance as we continue to move forward in this ongoing global pandemic. Please know that the safety and comfort of your loved one is our top priority.

Lastly, we appreciate all your communication with the LISVH team. Please feel free to contact us with any of your questions or concerns. Have a nice weekend.

Sincerely,

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