

Long Island State Veterans Home



AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

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March 30, 2021

Dear LISVH Family Member:

With the end of March upon us, we want to take this opportunity to once again update you on our current situation at the Long Island State Veterans Home. We continue to remain stable with our resident population. Since February 25, 2021, we have had **no cases** of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) among our residents. Swab testing for residents continues as we are committed to staying ahead of this wicked and elusive virus.

As of today, 324 of our 675 employees have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus since March 10, 2020. Twenty-seven employees are currently quarantining at their homes, while 297 staff members have fully recovered and have returned to work. It seems that our employees are mirroring what is happening in Suffolk County. The 14-day positivity rate for Suffolk County is 4.4%. Yesterday's positivity rate was 5.3%. The number is heading in the wrong direction. We are thankful for the fact that employees who have tested positive have no symptoms or mild symptoms at best. Again, swab testing for staff remains robust and we are conducting over 1,000 COVID-19 swab tests on employees each week.

We continue to work with the recently released [New York State Department of Health Visitation Guidelines](#) for Skilled Nursing Facilities. The guideline is highlighted for your own review. Our challenge, as a large Home with a large workforce, is that we must seriously take into consideration any employee that tests positive. Six employees have tested positive since we wrote to you last Friday. The New York State Department of Health views this as an "Outbreak" and that is what prevents us from reopening for normal visitation. This being said, we continue to step up the scheduling of compassionate visits and want to reasonably accommodate you – our dedicated families. We urge you to reach out to your Social Worker in order to schedule a visit. For those out-of-town family members who are preparing for a future visit, please let us know now, so we can assure you some quality time with your loved one. While we want to smartly have you visit, we are committed to keeping all variants of COVID-19 out of our Home. Not an easy task to accomplish without your cooperation. Thank you again for understanding this situation.

As most of you know, our Medical Director, Dr. Frank Cervo, is retiring after 28 years of dedicated and loyal service to our Home. We have completed a search for Dr. Cervo's replacement and are pleased to announce that Dr. Anshu Singh, our current Assistant Director, will be promoted to Medical Director on April 1, 2021. Triple-boarded in Internal Medicine, Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine, Dr. Singh is credentialed as a Certified Medical Director and is deeply committed to our mission of "Caring for America's Heroes." We wish Dr. Singh much success in her new role.

Please continue to practice the 3W's (*Wear a Mask, Wash Your Hands, Watch Your Distance*) and consider taking the vaccine if you have not already done so. We are redoubling our efforts to fight any pandemic fatigue and hope you will join us. As always, feel free to reach out to us.

Sincerely,

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