

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

April 10, 2020

Dear LISVH Family Member:

We are thinking of you as we continue to battle the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and we hope that you are staying safe, staying strong and most important, staying home. We are pleased to report that our staff remains highly engaged and committed as we are now on Day 31 of this public health dilemma.

As of this writing, there are forty-six positive cases of novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Forty-two are here at the Home and four are being actively treated at Stony Brook University Hospital. On a positive note, today we can announce the full recovery of three veterans who were first diagnosed with Coronavirus (COVID-19) last month here at the Home. Our three veterans include a 95-year old World War II veteran, a 91-year old Korean War veteran and a 72-year old Vietnam veteran. All three are doing extremely well and are grateful for your thoughts and prayers.

Sadly, we must report that we have had thirteen veterans pass away since the beginning of this outbreak on March 10, 2020. Most of these veterans had multiple comorbidities, which likely contributed to them succumbing to the Coronavirus (COVID-19). All wore the uniform and were part of the one percent of Americans who answered the call to defend our nation and the principles of our democracy. Our staff are deeply grieving the loss of these beloved members of the LISVH community. Please know that we continue to offer our deepest condolences to their family and friends.

In an effort to contain the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), we actively continue to cohort residents who have tested for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), as per Center for Disease Control and Prevention and New York State Department of Health guidelines. After lengthy discussions with New York State Department of Health officials, we received recommendations to keep existing residents living on our Reflections (Alzheimer's & Dementia) Unit together in their current location due to the special needs and safety concerns for these particular residents. Please note that due to HIPAA Privacy Rules, we can never reveal the medical status of your loved one's roommate. Please help us to adhere to these regulations.

On the employee front, all staff are properly screened with a temperature check upon arrival into the building and any employee showing symptoms has immediate access to Coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. Since March 10, 2020, we have tested multiple employees on all shifts. To date, sixteen employees have tested positive and they are all recovering at home.

Since our last writing, we have had additional deliveries as well as generous contributions of PPE to our Home. Securing PPE will always be an important priority, and we have an adequate supply of PPE at this time.

We are continuing to celebrate Passover and Easter through our closed-circuit television system (Channel 67). Father Tom, Rabbi Joe and Reverend Greg are continuing their ministries through the use of technology. May God bless them for their outstanding efforts during this event.

Families are inquiring as to how they can help. Please note the following:

- Deliveries of food, flowers or plants cannot be accepted at this time. No exceptions.
- We are only able to answer inquiries regarding your family member. No information regarding other residents will be disclosed.
- Please visit our Facebook page to enjoy great photos and inspiring messages. Feel free to send us your videos to share with your loved ones or your kind thoughts and prayers for our staff. Videos can be emailed to jonathan.spier@lisvh.org.
- For more information, please refer to our COVID-19 FAQ section on the website.

Visitation was suspended one month ago today. We recognize how hard this has been for you. Please know that we miss you dearly and will remain committed to keeping your loved one safe and comfortable.

The Spring season brings a message of resilience, renewal, and hope. Spring is a metaphor for positive change and rebirth. We can all agree that hope is more important now than it has been at perhaps any moment in the recent past. Together, we are facing unprecedented challenges and anxiety for our loved ones and ourselves. At this moment, our faith, our family, and our friendships are more important than ever. The things we have in common, our shared love of family and friends, are what will carry us forward. For those now celebrating Passover and Easter, we wish you blessed holidays. For everyone, we wish you the healthy gift of Spring as well.

We will continue to update you on a timely basis and again please reach out to us directly if we can be of further assistance.

Best,

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

Jonathan Spier
Deputy Executive Director
631-444-8615

Frank Cervo, MD
Medical Director
631-444-8602

Rona Schlau
Director of Nursing
631-444-8707

Jean Brand
Director of ADHC
631-444-8530