

# Long Island State Veterans Home



AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

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April 3, 2020

Dear LISVH Family Member:

With another week of hard work and dedication in response to the COVID-19 pandemic coming to a close, I want to reach out to you all and let you know our situation. I would be remiss if I did not tell you about the incredible dedication and compassion that our staff has shown. As you know, my first letter to you was on March 10, 2020. We are now on Day Number 25 of this public health crisis.

As of this writing, we have twenty cases of novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Eighteen are here at the Home and two are at Stony Brook University Hospital receiving care. We also have two veterans who have been tested and are considered Persons Under Investigation (PUI). Currently, the positive cases and PUIs are located on nursing units 1C, 2D, 3C & 3D.

Sadly, I must report that here at the Home we have had our first two expirations that occurred over the last two days. Both veterans had multiple comorbidities which likely contributed to them succumbing to the COVID-19 coronavirus. Our hearts are extremely heavy as we mourn the passing of these two veterans, who served our nation with honor and dignity during its hour of need. Each of these veterans were also beloved members of the LISVH community and will be deeply missed. On behalf of everyone here, we offer our sincere condolences to their family and friends. We are grieving with them.

On the employee front, we have, since March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020, tested thirty-four employees for coronavirus (COVID-19). To date, four employees have tested positive, twenty-three employees have tested negative and four are considered PUIs, and are at home awaiting their results. I want to reassure you that our dedicated staff are reporting to work and staffing levels remain strong at this moment. Again, all employees are properly screened with a temperature check upon arrival to work on all shifts.

Our Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplies remain strong at this time and we expect additional major deliveries to arrive next week. Please know that our staff has all the equipment they need to do their job and to protect themselves and your loved one. We continue to work hard to maintain a good supply of PPE for our staff. In addition, disinfection efforts continue around-the-clock and we would like to acknowledge our Environmental Services team for their ongoing and outstanding efforts.

Lastly, please know that we continue to fight this battle. Earlier this week I shared a quote from Franklin D. Roosevelt with our staff. I told them that “Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the assessment that something else is more important than fear.” Our staff is focused on the Mission and we are committed to doing everything in our power to protect residents and staff from the spread of this virus and will remain vigilant in our efforts to do so.

As always, we will continue to keep you informed about our situation. Please continue to monitor our website. Should you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to reach out to us.

Best,

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