

Long Island State Veterans Home



AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

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Dear LISVH Family Member:

As we complete day 486 in our fight against the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), we remain in stable condition. We have no cases of the virus among our resident population and our entire workforce. In accordance with New York State Department of Health guidance, unvaccinated employees are being swab tested and our COVID-19 surveillance continues to be in place. We stay vigilant, as we are wary of the COVID-19 Delta variant.

We want you to be aware of the COVID-19 situation within Suffolk County. Yesterday's positivity rate was 0.7%. There are 35 people who are currently hospitalized for COVID-19 and four of them are on ventilators. The vaccination rate for Suffolk County is currently at 60.1%, and that leaves about 40% unvaccinated. We are concerned, as the Delta variant is approximately 60 times more contagious than the original strain of the virus. The unvaccinated remain the most vulnerable as we continue to do battle against the virus.

Earlier today, we held another COVID-19 vaccine clinic for our newly admitted residents as well as for employees who now want the vaccine. After today's event, over 95% of our residents and 70% of our employees received the COVID-19 vaccine. While these percentages change over time, we want to share the latest information with you.

Late last night, we received updated guidance from the [New York State Department of Health regarding nursing home visitation and social interaction](#). Click on the link to read the latest update.

Key elements of the new guidance that differ from prior guidance are the following:

- If both the resident and their visitor(s) are fully vaccinated, and the resident and visitor(s) are alone in the resident room or designated visitation room, the resident and visitor may choose to have close contact (including touch) without a mask or face covering.
- During an outbreak, only indoor visitation is suspended.
- Residents who are on transmission-based precautions for confirmed or suspected COVID-19 or an exposure to COVID-19 as defined by the CDC should only receive visits that are virtual or in person for compassionate care situations. In other words, residents who are placed on transmission-based precautions only because they live on a unit where an infected resident or staff member lives or works, but who have not been exposed as defined by the CDC, may receive visitors outdoors.

- Communal dining may occur without the use of face coverings or physical distancing if all residents are fully vaccinated. If there are unvaccinated residents also dining in the communal dining area, all residents must wear face coverings when not eating and unvaccinated residents should physically distance from others.
- Group activities may occur without the use of face coverings or social distancing if all residents participating are fully vaccinated. If any residents who are not fully vaccinated are participating, all residents must wear a face covering and unvaccinated residents should physically distance from others.

We are working to update our facility policies to reflect the latest guidance. In summary, please know that we continue to focus on the safety and comfort of all our residents. All general visitation still must be scheduled through [SignUp Genius](#) on our website and we thank you for your full cooperation. If you have a special circumstance related to visitation, we encourage you to reach out to your social worker. Please know that we continue to be here for you and never hesitate to call us. Have a great weekend.

Sincerely,

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