

June 4, 2020

Dear Lorien Families:

This week, we entered the final phase of COVID-19 universal testing for Lorien facilities. All Lorien residents and staff have now been tested. Since the last day of universal testing for all Maryland nursing homes is tomorrow, June 5th, the labs processing the tests are overwhelmed. Test results are still pending for several facilities, including Lorien Elkridge, Bulle Rock, and Taneytown. Again, if your loved one has been affected directly by a positive COVID-19 case, you will be contacted.

The results we have received show that those testing positive at the following facilities were all asymptomatic: **Bel Air** – 0 residents and 0 staff; **Columbia** - 4 residents and 4 staff; **Encore** - 1 resident, 3 staff, and 1 private aide; **Mt Airy** - 8 residents and 8 staff; **Mays Chapel** - 0 residents and 1 staff. I'd like to reiterate the point that universal testing is not in lieu of ongoing testing. We will continue to implement all preventative measures outlined by the health departments and the Centers for Disease Control, including ongoing testing of our residents and staff.

Yesterday, Governor Hogan announced that the state is ready to begin Phase 2 of its “Road to Recovery” plan. While many businesses will be able to open with restrictions, Lorien needs to abide by the Maryland Health Department’s decision that nursing homes in Maryland will not be permitted to be open to visitors until sometime in Phase 3. When visitation is allowed, we expect it will be subject to new limitations, but we will work with you to accommodate any changes.

For the past 10 weeks, we have been laser-focused on caring for your family members. It has been a time fraught with “fear of the unknown,” including who was asymptomatic and might unknowingly spread the virus to a patient or staff member, whether we would have enough PPE for everyone, and great concern about the loneliness and isolation this has caused for our patients and families. We are grateful to our ‘Health Care Heroes’ for standing up to these issues.

We appreciate that you continue to entrust your loved ones in our care. Know that as our organization slowly moves forward to accepting patients who need our services, we do not take that trust lightly. We have created separate covid units in our building, secured adequate PPE for our staff, and continue to work closely with state and local health departments to keep our residents and team healthy and safe.

Finally, we know that every Lorien team member has gone above and beyond to keep our residents engaged and safe during this unprecedented time. On Lorien’s social media channels, we will be recognizing individuals nominated by their colleagues as “Care Forward” Stars in each building. This week, Lorien Columbia’s activities director, Kayla Fowler, was honored for her creative programming and coordinating more than 100 calls each week with 75 residents. Thank you, Kayla and all of our “Care Forward” Stars!

Sincerely,

Lou Grimmel, Sr.
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