

November 12, 2020

Dear Lorien Residents and Families:

In an effort to contain the recent surge of COVID-19 cases in Maryland, Governor Hogan issued an advisory this week which focuses on gatherings and essential travel, as well as nursing home and assisted living programs. You can read the Governor's full advisory here: https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/Documents/2020.11.10.03_MDH_Advisory_Large_Gatherings_Travel_Long_Term_Care_Visitation.pdf

With COVID-19 cases rising in the community, Lorien has also proportionately had staff test positive for the virus. As you can imagine, our staff is stretched and stressed. We are simply unable to spare staff for the purposes of testing visitors. Our staff's time needs to be focused on taking care of your loved ones. **Therefore, visitors are now required to obtain a negative COVID-19 test result no older than 48-hours before the time of their visit and should bring that test result with them to the facility. Point of Care testing at the facility will only be utilized for compassionate/end of life situations.**

- Free testing sites close to you can be found here: <http://covidtest.maryland.gov/>.

As of today, all our buildings are considered to be on outbreak status. Therefore, indoor visitation is not permitted at this time. Home cooked meals and flowers are also still not allowed in the buildings.

The Governor's warnings are stern and they are necessary. So you might ask "What is the good news in all of this?" As we began this journey almost 9 months ago, we have all been in this together. We could not care for our residents without our amazing Lorien employees and the support of all the families. **So you, our residents, and our Lorien team are the good in all of this.**

With that, we are also asking you for additional help. As mentioned above, we have staff that are strained and working long hours. We anticipate even more struggles with staffing and need your help to recruit. If you know of any nurses or nursing assistants that can help, please ask them to contact JoAnn Presbitero - jpresbitero@lorienhealth.com. The Governor re-emphasized that nursing staff, during this crisis, can be licensed in a different state or have an expired license, so please send them our way. Similarly, if there are any individuals that you know who want to work as a caregiver and have no experience, please also refer them. The state is offering a temporary nursing assistant licensure that will accompany our training.

Thank you and stay safe.

Sincerely,

Lou Grimmel, Sr.
CEO, Lorien Health Services