

August 19, 2021

Dear Lorien Residents and Families,

In my letter two weeks ago, I mentioned Lorien was carefully considering a vaccine mandate for employees. Yesterday, Governor Hogan pushed that initiative forward with the announcement of a new vaccination order issued by Maryland Department of Health (MDH). The order states employees of Maryland's hospitals and nursing homes will be required to get the COVID-19 vaccine or submit to regular screening and testing.

President Joe Biden also announced yesterday that his administration will require that nursing home staff be vaccinated against COVID-19. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is expected to issue a new mandate following this announcement and we will await their guidance before issuing a Lorien-specific policy. We will be in touch when we know more.

In the meantime, MDH is requiring proof of first dose or full vaccination by Sept. 1. Currently, the majority of Lorien's facilities have at least 80% of staff vaccinated. We will continue to encourage and support our staff who have not yet received it to meet MDH's deadline.

While Maryland can tout it is one of the nation's most vaccinated states, the Governor's announcement comes on the heels of Maryland's testing positivity rate surpassing 5%. The highly transmissible COVID-19 Delta variant still accounts for 100% of Maryland's recent positive cases. We know the vaccine remains our best defense against fighting this pandemic.

As I mentioned previously, vaccinated individuals are now testing positive, with or without symptoms. These are considered "breakthrough cases" and there have been cases of this nature in our facilities leading to outbreak status. Unfortunately, there are currently four Lorien facilities in outbreak status.

Visitation remains open for buildings that are not currently on outbreak status. Again, visitation policies may quickly change so please contact your building directly prior to your visit.

Given the spread of the extremely contagious COVID-19 variant and these breakthrough cases we are experiencing, we ask that if you are vaccinated and visiting a vaccinated loved one to wear a mask still, please during your visit.

Additionally, if you have recently visited your loved one and then later find out that you had been exposed to someone with COVID-19 prior to that visit, we ask that you inform the building immediately. This will help us be proactive in testing our residents and employees.

The Governor also made a point to touch on a third vaccination dose, or booster shot, during his press conference. He stated he is calling on the Biden administration to make third doses available to seniors and nursing home residents immediately. Again, we will contact you as soon as we know more.

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Although I had hoped to send these letters monthly, updates to federal and local guidance remain fluid, so you will continue to receive them as needed. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to your Administrator.

Sincerely,



Lou Grimm