

February 22, 2022

Dear Lorien Families,

I finally have some good news to share. Governor Hogan announced last week that the state appears to have made it through the worst of the Omicron surge, and we are in a much different position than we were a month ago. We've seen some very encouraging trends: key health metrics are dramatically improving, and Maryland is emerging from the Omicron surge faster than any other state in country. As a result, the Governor also reported that he is lifting the mask mandate in Maryland, effective today.

You might remember that despite the positivity rate for Maryland, our nursing homes still have to follow the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Maryland Health Department (MDH). Visitation guidelines are based on the transmission rate of the county in which the particular Lorien building is located. As of today, all of the Lorien facilities are now in the SUBSTANTIAL category which means visitor testing is no longer needed. **However, regardless of vaccination status and the lifting of the mask mandate, visitors should wear masks when entering a Lorien facility.**

If you do choose to voluntarily test before visiting your loved one, our facilities have a supply of test kits that we can offer to you. Please also note that the CDC publishes the community transmission rates daily and if the county increases to HIGH again, visitor testing will have to resume per the state mandate.

I'm cautiously optimistic that the Covid-19 positivity rate will continue to decline, but with that in mind, it's not a time to get complacent about your loved ones' health. In fact, this is a good time to make sure your COVID-19 vaccine protection is **up to date**. According to CDC guidance, **"Everyone is considered up to date until the time they are eligible for a booster – which is 5 months after the second dose in a two-shot series, (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines), or two months after the J&J/Janssen vaccine. After this time period, a booster shot is recommended."**

The guidance from the CDC further states that a resident whose vaccine status is not considered "up to date," and who has been admitted to the hospital, will need to be placed on quarantine for 10 days upon returning to a Lorien facility. As a reminder, booster clinics are still available at all of our facilities. Please reach out directly to your Administrator for more information and to schedule the booster shot as soon as possible.

Lorien Health Services
3300 North Ridge Road, Suite 390 | Ellicott City, MD 21043
Tel: (410) 750-7500 | Fax: (410) 750-7902 | TTY: (800) 735-2258
www.lorienhealth.com

In other news, Lorien has partnered with Johns Hopkins Medicine on a study pertaining to issues impacting long term care residents. The focus of the study is on the beliefs and attitudes about COVID-19 and how to develop better ways to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Interviews for both are brief and we encourage your participation. If you are interested, please call Jahli Heughan at 410.614.9832.

Finally, I want to once again extend my gratitude to all of you. It is comforting to know that we can count on you to work with us to help keep the numbers down. Without your support, patience, and cooperation, we could not have navigated through this latest surge. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Lou Grimmel, CEO