

August 20, 2020

Dear Lorien Residents and Families:

Nursing homes across the country, and in Maryland, remain in the media headlines. We will continue to address the issues being covered with you directly, as we know the numerous reports can be confusing and worrisome.

The American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA / NCAL), released a report this week highlighting an increase in COVID-19 cases across the country, and commented that it is no surprise. Florida and Arizona, along with Texas and California, have topped the list of states with the highest growth in infections in recent weeks. This is a developing trend across the country as communities and facilities reopen. In Maryland, we are seeing that as COVID positivity rates increase in communities at large, they also increase in skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers.

Lorien communities are being diligent in our preparation and infection prevention and control practices, especially around a potential second COVID-19 wave during flu season. As we previously advised you, Lorien has appointed an infection control expert to oversee this effort and we will continue to enhance our infection prevention and control program. We have also been purchasing and stockpiling PPE, and will begin administering flu shots for our residents and employees as early as possible in September. We also want to share that our visitation policy may be further restricted by the complicating factors of the flu season, COVID-19, and fall seasonal allergies. We will advise you of any such changes that we must implement to further protect our residents.

Also in the news this week, you may have read that Maryland is no longer assisting its nursing home communities with the mandated weekly staff testing expense. While this is not a planned expenditure, it is another hurdle we intend to face head on while weekly testing for our staff continues. The health and safety Lorien residents and our team maintain top priority.

Closing on a positive note, please join me in congratulating Mays Chapel resident, Elmira Romans. At 100-years-young, Elmira beat the coronavirus!

Sincerely,

Lou Grimmel, Sr.  
CEO, Lorien Health Services



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