

January 17, 2022

Dear Lorien Residents and Families,

Today's letter will be very direct and to the point in order to reflect the severity of Maryland's current health care status. As widely reported in the media, Maryland hospitals are operating in crisis mode. They are filled beyond capacity with patients and are facing severe staffing shortages. **This leaves Nursing and Assisted Living Facilities like Lorien in a similar crisis mode since** hospitals are transferring their extremely sick patients to our nursing homes and thereby severely impacting our own staffing.

Beginning over a month ago, Lorien facilities began experiencing a very high number of staff call-outs due to Covid-19 related illness. And employees who are not out sick are stretched extremely thin because they are left to work extra shifts in order to care for more and sicker residents. We have never experienced these kinds of staffing challenges during the 40+ years we have served Maryland.

To address the crisis, last week Governor Hogan issued a **new order** concerning testing for nursing home staff and visitors. **The order is effective Friday, January 21st and states that staff, volunteers, and vendors who are in a nursing home facility regularly, regardless of vaccination status, must be tested for COVID-19 twice a week whenever community transmission is high as it currently is in all of Lorien facility counties. In addition, all visitors will need to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test.**

Utilizing our remaining facility staff to test our **visitors** involves time that would be better spent caring for our residents. Therefore, for the protection of our residents and employees, and in accordance with the order, **visitors are welcome to visit with proof of a negative COVID-19 test, taken within 72-hours of the visit. We ask that you please obtain this test prior to your visit.**

Since all Lorien counties currently have high transmission rates, **masks must be worn in the buildings.** If you've tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, MDH also requires you provide proof. You can read the full MDH order [here](#).

Also, Governor Hogan announced that the Maryland National Guard will begin distributing courses of Remdesivir, one of the therapeutic treatments believed to be effective against the Omicron variant, to institutional pharmacies directly serving nursing homes. We have yet to be notified when we will receive this drug and will notify you when we know.

We understand the surge may be peaking soon and continue to maintain hope. In the meantime, we continue to appreciate your kindness and cooperation as we safely adapt to circumstances yet again.

Sincerely,



Lou Grimmel, CEO

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