

March 4, 2021

Dear Lorien Residents and Families:

Governor Hogan has announced that tomorrow Maryland will commemorate the one-year anniversary of the state's first confirmed cases of COVID-19. As we approach this day of remembrance, words cannot clearly express what we have been through together. I remain truly grateful for your patience, kindness, and grace this past year. We will continue to persevere through the next encouraging phases.

In my letters over the last two weeks, I've sent you Lorien's updated visitation and testing guidance, in compliance with the Maryland Department of Health's (MDH) amended directive. **I'd like to remind you that the directive went into effect on Monday only for facilities that do not have active COVID-19 cases.**

I know these updates continue to be complicated, so I'd like to briefly reiterate the MDH directive key points around the new policy. I understand how excited we are about the updated policy and to see our loved ones, however the following still needs to be implemented:

Visitation and Testing

Visitation can only occur if the facility does not have an active COVID-19 outbreak.

Visitor testing is required within 72 hours prior to coming to the facility with proof of negative results and date of the test. While all Lorien facilities will be offering on-site Point-of-Care (POC) testing for our families and visitors, **we would appreciate it if you would test on your own, if you are able.** Our staff remains committed to caring for our residents and **testing availability will be limited for the time being.**

Please take note that if you are accompanying a loved one to a medically necessary appointment, you will need to schedule a POC test with the facility. Please plan accordingly.

Here are some links to help you find testing sites:

- Maryland: <https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/symptoms-testing>
- UM Upper Chesapeake Health Aberdeen, register at:
<http://crispcovid19.powerappsportals.com/new-patient/>

Please remember that we cannot accept antibody testing results. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Antibody tests should **not** be used to diagnose a current infection with the virus that causes COVID-19. An antibody test may not show if you have a current infection because it can take 1–3 weeks after the infection for your body to make antibodies.

If the facility is NOT on outbreak status, outdoor visitation is still the preferred method. Thankfully, spring is right around the corner and we are experiencing milder weather. When outdoor visitation cannot be accomplished due to environmental factors and/or resident condition, an in-facility visitation will be performed. The facility will screen all visitors for signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

COVID-19 Safety Protocol

I also mentioned last week that it is unknown whether fully vaccinated individuals can still transmit the virus to others. Our top priority is always the safety of our residents and staff. Therefore, it is very important to continue to practice proper hand hygiene, wear a mask covering your mouth and nose, and exercise social distancing. For more information refer to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

We are also awaiting guidance from MDH for vaccinated residents and a post COVID-19 plan. We will update you when we know more.



I'd like to close this update by wishing our special Bel Air resident, Mrs. Grace Tolliver, a very Happy **100th** Birthday! Grace celebrated this centennial milestone in style just last week.

Sincerely,

Lou Grimmel Sr., CEO