

December 14, 2020

Dear Lorien Residents and Families:

Last week we learned of an initial plan for the COVID-19 vaccine distribution that includes nursing home residents and staff as a top priority for vaccination. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has found the COVID-19 vaccine to be safe and effective and approved the first vaccine last Friday. This is very encouraging news. A COVID-19 vaccine will soon be available to all Lorien residents. We are moving forward with our plans and will provide additional details soon. You can expect to see clear signage throughout our buildings with the date that the vaccine will be available.

When we receive the consent from the pharmacy which will be distributing the vaccine, we will contact Lorien residents and obtain verbal or written consent. **Please note that this vaccination is ONLY available for one date.** If residents choose not to receive the vaccination, we have no idea when it might be available again.

We encourage as many residents as possible to get this vaccine. Our residents have a much higher risk for getting very sick, being hospitalized, or dying from COVID-19. The vaccine has been shown to provide a great deal of protection against serious illness due to COVID-19. **The more residents that get vaccinated, the better we can protect our community against potential outbreaks and save lives.**

**This vaccine has gone through testing and clinical trials to ensure it meets the highest safety standards.** It also is safe to get if you already had the virus. The health and safety of our residents is always our top priority, and we are confident this vaccine is a much better option than the risk of getting this virus. You will find that side effects of the vaccine are similar to the potential side effects of the flu shot, but they occur more frequently (see attached **Fact Sheet**). The vaccine requires two doses. Residents will need to get both doses to ensure the best results. The second dose will be given approximately 21 to 28 days after the first dose.

We will continue to take all necessary precautions after the vaccine is administered, including wearing personal protective equipment and conducting regular testing, to ensure the safety of our residents and staff. We will also work with public health officials to determine how and when to adjust our policies for visitations and social activities and keep you updated.

In addition, Lorien will be launching our #LorienArmsOut social media campaign. The purpose of this campaign is to help reassure and educate the public about the safety of the vaccination through the real-life experiences of our team members and residents. There is a light at the end of the tunnel. We are hopeful that the vaccine will be a lifesaving turning point in the fight against COVID-19. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions. You may also visit [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines) or <https://covidlink.maryland.gov/content/faqs/#faqVP> to learn more about the vaccine.

Sincerely,  
Lou Grimmel, Sr.  
CEO, Lorien Health Services