

October 25, 2021

Dear Lorien Residents and Families,

It's hard to believe that the holidays are almost upon us. Halloween is around the corner and Thanksgiving is exactly a month away. I feel as if I have so much to be grateful this year. I'm proud to share that we welcomed another granddaughter recently and that my family and I are very much looking forward to finally have the opportunity to spending the holidays together. As Governor Hogan indicated today, Maryland is one of the most vaccinated states in America and that the percentages of positive COVID-19 cases continue to decrease. So, I'm hopeful that this will continue and you will also be able to share the holidays with your loved ones.

Although we are pleased that Maryland's positivity rate has dipped below 4% again, it is important for us all to continue to be conscientious in our infection control practices and keep up to date with vaccination recommendations. As the holidays approach, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has released recommendations to celebrate safely, including wearing a well-fitting mask in public indoor settings even if you are vaccinated. You can read more on how to minimize your COVID-19 risk during the holidays here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays/celebrations.html>.

Several weeks ago, Governor Hogan announced that all Marylanders aged 65 and older who are living in congregate care settings, including nursing homes and assisted living facilities, are eligible for the COVID-19 booster shot.

What we know now is this:

- If you have received the Pfizer vaccination on or before April 25, 2021, you are eligible for the Pfizer booster shot.
- If you have received the J&J vaccination on or before August 25th, you are eligible for either the Pfizer or the Moderna booster shot
- Maryland now has a new website portal to check for eligibility: www.covidvax.maryland.gov

These boosters are now available to our buildings, and you should have or will receive next steps directly from your Administrator. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Lorien continues to comply with the employee vaccination order and we are pleased to report that the majority of our buildings have 80% or more of its staff vaccinated. Eligible employees have also begun to receive booster shots.

We are also in the midst of another flu season and Maryland health officials have indicated it could be severe this year. In addition to the COVID-19 vaccine, they are urging people to get a flu shot to protect themselves. Lorien employees are required to receive the flu shot and we recommend it for all residents. You will be contacted to schedule your appointment, if you have not done so already.

Lorien Health Services
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As a continued reminder, if you plan to visit Lorien facilities, we ask that you continue to be mindful of our visitation policies. Visitation remains open for buildings that are **not** currently on outbreak status. Since visitation policies may quickly change, please contact your building directly prior to your visit to make an appointment. Currently, four Lorien facilities are on outbreak status.

We are prudent in controlling the spread of the highly contagious Delta variant, so even if you are vaccinated and visiting a vaccinated loved one, we are asking that you consider wearing a mask during your visit. Again, if you discover you've been exposed to COVID-19 before a recent visit with your loved one, inform the building immediately. This will help us to be proactive in testing our residents and employees.

I understand that many of you may be looking forward to the possibility of bringing your loved one's flower, plants, or home cooked meals for the holidays. Please remember that at this time, we welcome flowers but still discourage plants. As transmission rates continue to decrease, home cooked meals could be allowed in the near future. We will update you when this information becomes available.

I'm grateful for your continued patience and support. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lou Grimmel

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