

September 17, 2020

Dear Lorien Residents and Families:

As you are aware, each week, we test our staff using the most common COVID-19 tests available, polymerase chain reaction (PCR). Last week, this testing presented an unusually high number of positive cases in our Columbia location. The Howard County Department of Health recognized the results as abnormal and re-tested, determining false positive cases for 28 staff members. While challenging, we are relieved our team members are healthy. Please know that the moment a positive case is reported, whether we are uncertain of the result or not, the safety and wellbeing of our residents and staff are always the main priority.

Last week, Governor Hogan announced that Maryland has acquired 250,000 coronavirus rapid point-of-care (POC) antigen tests that will be used in nursing homes and assisted living facilities, as well as correctional and juvenile detention centers, across the state. These new tests are processed with results on site in about 15 to 20 minutes. We have received the POC testing for our facilities and are still awaiting further guidance on the use of this testing. We will continue to update you regarding the use of this testing and how it may impact visitation.

The Governor also stated, and I'd like to reiterate given last week's results from our PCR testing, "These [POC] tests are up in the 80%, 84%, and 87% accurate. So, it's not like the 97% to 100% that we do on the other tests, but you don't have to wait days or a week to get the result. In 15 minutes, we'll have a pretty good understanding. And my understanding is you don't have false negatives. You have some false positives, so you're screening people."

Today, you may have read that the Baltimore Business Journal indicated that local health officials continue to stress the possibility of a second virus wave this fall. As a reminder, we are aware of this and our buildings are meticulously planning through the enhancement of our infection control programs, as well as purchasing and stockpiling PPE.

Finally, I'd like to recognize our activities teams for their extraordinary creativity and engagement activities that continue to keep our residents' spirits high. Last weekend, we celebrated Grandparent's Day and residents enjoyed life-sized cutout visits from their grandchildren, festive car parades with loved ones, sing-a-longs, and more!

Lorien Health Services
3300 North Ridge Road, Suite 390 | Ellicott City, MD 21043
Tel: (410) 750-7500 | Fax: (410) 750-7902 | TTY: (800) 735-2258
www.lorienhealth.com