

May 27, 2021

Dear Lorien Residents and Families,

This week, for the first time, Maryland has dropped below a 2% COVID-19 testing positivity rate. Hospitalizations and new cases are also still declining. This is great news and I am hopeful that these trends continue.

As I noted in my last letter, federal and local policies for nursing home communities continue to change rapidly. While the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) may outline *recommendations* for adjusted infection control procedures, such as masking and visitation rules, we are still required to wait for further direction from the state of Maryland and the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). We will continue to communicate changes as they come.

As a result, CMS' visitation restrictions are still in effect. As a reminder, visitors and residents who are both fully vaccinated can visit without masks and without social distancing as long as they are alone in their room or in a visitation room without unvaccinated individuals. In this regard, we please ask that you provide documentation of vaccination at the time of your visit.

**In addition, all visitors, despite vaccination, must wear a mask in our facilities until they have arrived in the designated visitation area.** As a reminder, please contact your facility directly to schedule your visitation as some of the Lorien buildings are requesting that the visits be planned 24-48 hours in advance, since visitation guidelines can change at any time if a facility is on outbreak status. (I'm happy to report that **currently no Lorien facilities are on outbreak status**). For your convenience, many of our facilities have on-line scheduling applications and we ask that you utilize that platform.

Vaccination continues to be the key to eased restrictions and returning to a sense of normalcy. Challenges around access to the vaccine in Maryland have subsided and I continue to encourage you to consider vaccination if you have not done so already. You can learn more and find a clinic close to you here: <http://covidvax.maryland.gov/>.

It is hard to believe that we are gearing up for Memorial Day weekend, a holiday traditionally filled with cookouts, friends and family. I urge you to continue to practice infection control measures to protect yourself and your loved ones. **The CDC has updated its guidance for events and gatherings. Please take a few moments to read it:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/considerations-for-events-gatherings.html>.

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Finally, I'd like to congratulate one of our residents, Zelda Johnson! Zelda was recognized by Brightstar Care and received the "Beautiful and Positive Aging" award. Michelle Brannock, the Director of Social Work at Lorien Columbia, nominated Zelda because she volunteers her talent as an artist and craftswoman to spread joy and positivity in the facility. A true beauty on the inside and the outside. Zelda was also awarded a day of pampering to prepare for her



photoshoot. It is individuals like Zelda who keep me energized and remind me of why we are so committed to our residents and families.

I wish you a safe and relaxing holiday weekend!

Sincerely,

Lou Grimmel, CEO