

September 20, 2021

Dear Lorien Residents and Families,

I hope you had a wonderful summer and are settling into the beginning of fall, football season, and the start of school for your children and grandchildren. It has been about a month since my last letter and I wanted to understand a bit more information about the approval and distribution of the Covid-19 booster before I wrote to you. Besides the local government, there are also various organizations that are involved around the decision making process and so far, this is what I know to be true today.

Two weeks ago, Governor Hogan announced that the Covid-19 booster would be available to those that are immunocompromised. He also immediately authorized Covid-19 boosters for all Marylanders aged 65 and older who are living in congregate care settings, including nursing homes and assisted living facilities. On Friday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, the Biological Products Committee advised that the FDA not approve the booster universally but DID recommend approval of the third dose for those 65 and older or “at high risk of severe disease.”

As you can see, there is a lot of discussion around this third dose and the authorization of Health and Humans Services (HSS) and the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) is still pending. **Nonetheless, while we are awaiting further guidance, Lorien is now proactively scheduling booster clinics. You will be contacted directly for consent in the weeks to come.**

Additionally, **the new vaccination order issued by Maryland Department of Health (MDH) has begun.** The order states employees of Maryland’s hospitals and nursing homes are required to get the COVID-19 vaccine or submit to regular screening and testing. Lorien is complying with the state’s order as we await further guidance from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on its federal vaccination mandate. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to your Administrator. We predict that these vaccination mandates may cause a reduction in staff. In preparation for the months (and years) to come, Lorien has established a new centralized recruitment team at the corporate office. Referrals are always welcomed and encouraged.

As a reminder, 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. **Given the spread of the extremely contagious COVID-19 variant and the breakthrough cases we continue to experience, we ask that even if you are vaccinated and visiting a vaccinated loved one to please wear 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. Thank you, as always, for your continued support!

Sincerely,



Lou Grimm, CEO

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](http://www.lorienhealth.com)