

May 13, 2021

Dear Lorien Residents and Families,

I want to first apologize for any confusion you may have experienced around the updated visitation guidance in our previous letters. We are tasked with juggling multiple government agencies involved in the alterations to our COVID-19 policies, and they are not always in sync. We share your frustrations, and we have devoted staff dedicated to staying on top of the many changes on a 24/7 basis.

Secondly, in this letter, I would like to explain Lorien's Covid-19 policy implementation process, remind you of the most recent visitation guidance, and outline some new information from Governor Hogan that he announced this week.

**Covid-19 Policy and Procedures Process:**

When the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) announces any new guidance, prior to Lorien taking any action, we need the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS), Governor Hogan, and the local state departments to declare how the guidelines will apply to nursing homes and assisted living communities in the state of Maryland. I hope this information creates more clarity and gives you a better understanding of the process.

**As a reminder, here is the visitation guidance that was sent to you last week:**

- If visitors and residents are both fully vaccinated, they 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. *\*Lorien facilities will be requiring documentation of vaccination.*
- Each of the buildings must consider how the number of visitors per resident at one time and the total number of visitors in the facility at one time (based on the size of the building and physical space) may affect the ability to maintain the core principles of infection prevention.
- If necessary, the facilities should consider scheduling visits for a specified length of time to help ensure all residents are able to receive visitors.
- During indoor visitation, facilities should limit visitor movement in the facility.
- Visits for residents who share a room should not be conducted in the resident's room, if possible.

Please remember that the visitation guidelines can change at any time if a facility is on outbreak status. **Therefore, we ask that you call your particular Lorien facility directly because some of our buildings will require 24-48 hours advance notice to schedule a visit.** Currently, there are three Lorien facilities in outbreak status. For more information, please review: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/gso-20-39-nh-revised.pdf>.

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)

**A few additional changes were announced this week:**

- Yesterday, the Governor announced that most businesses, including indoor and outdoor restaurants and entertainment venues, will be able to operate at 100% capacity beginning this Saturday.
- Today, the CDC announced that fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear a mask or physically distance in any setting, ***except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local businesses and workplace guidance*** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html> .

**Since this was announced only by the CDC thus far, we are still waiting for CMS, Governor Hogan, and the local health departments to declare what this means to Lorien. Therefore, the indoor mask mandate still remains in place at all Lorien facilities.** We will update you immediately when this changes.

- The Governor also reported that the vaccination rates in all Maryland nursing homes will be posted weekly through the Maryland Department of Aging. You can access the dashboard here: <https://aging.maryland.gov/Pages/SNFVD.aspx>

As restrictions are easing, we are now allowing visitors to bring potted plants for our residents. However, due to the possible spread of infection, they are still not allowed on our ventilator and tracheostomy units. Thank you for understanding.

Finally, I want to continue to encourage you to please consider vaccination, if you have not already done so, and to continue to practice infection control measures to protect yourself and your loved ones.

Sincerely,  
Lou Grimmel, CEO

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