

March 11, 2021

Dear Lorien Residents and Families:

I'm writing this special letter tonight because on Tuesday, Governor Hogan announced the lifting of capacity limits throughout Maryland beginning Friday <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/03/09/governor-hogan-announces-lifting-of-capacity-limits-masking-and-distancing-protocols-maintained/> . Also, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), has also updated the visitation guidance for nursing homes and assisted living communities, **effective immediately**.

I am very excited for you to finally be reunited with your loved ones. You have been unbelievably patient and the time has finally come to loosen up some restrictions. **However, we are still asking for your help in abiding by the CDC guidelines and adhering to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention, including physical distancing, wearing a mask, and proper hand washing hygiene.** This continues to be the safest way to prevent the spread of COVID-19, particularly if either party has not been fully vaccinated.

Visitors are still encouraged to become vaccinated when they have the opportunity. While visitor testing and vaccination can help prevent the spread of COVID-19, **visitors will no longer be required to be tested or vaccinated (or show proof of such) as a condition of visitation.** As a precaution, Lorien will still offer on-site Point-of-Care (POC) testing for our families and visitors when requested. **Please reach out to the facility directly to schedule testing and visitation.**

The guidance now allows for indoor visits, regardless of vaccination status, unless the resident has been infected, is in quarantine, or the building is in outbreak status. CMS stressed that outdoor visitation remains preferred even when the resident and visitor are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. **Visitors will continue to be screened for symptoms.**

Federal and local health officials did acknowledge the toll that separation and isolation has taken on our residents and loved ones. Therefore, the updated guidance states if **the resident is fully vaccinated, they can choose to have close contact (including touch) with their visitor while wearing a well-fitting face mask and performing hand-hygiene before and after the visit.** Visitors should physically distance from other residents and staff in the facility.

Indoor visitation will be suspended if a new case of COVID-19 among residents or staff is identified while the facility immediately begins outbreak testing. If the first round of outbreak testing reveals no additional COVID-19 cases in other areas of the facility, then visitation can resume for residents in areas/units with no COVID-19 cases.

Compassionate care visits will be allowed at all times, regardless of a resident's vaccination status, the county's COVID-19 positivity rate, or an outbreak, **unless that visitor displays symptoms.**

Again, I cannot thank you enough. It has been a long, challenging year but here comes the sun!

Sincerely,
Lou Grimmel, CEO