

October 1, 2020

Dear Lorien Residents and Families:

Recently, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued updated guidance on in-person visitation for nursing homes. The guidance continues to urge outdoor visitation, as it poses a lower risk of COVID-19 transmission. However, in preparation for colder weather ahead, the guidance also outlines protocols for indoor visitation.

During the 4:00pm press conference held today, the Governor announced that indoor visitation is able to begin in Maryland nursing homes that are not experiencing outbreaks and that have not experienced new positive cases in the last 14 days. At this time, however, we must wait for the local health departments to move forward. We appreciate that federal and state health authorities understand the importance of visitation, and that there are health and safety challenges we must consider. We hope and expect to receive details by tomorrow.

We have previously discussed the coronavirus rapid point-of-care (POC) antigen tests that have been issued nationally to nursing homes and assisted living facilities. These new tests are processed with results on site in about 15 to 20 minutes. While we have received the POC testing supplies for our facilities, we continue to await further guidance on the proper administration of these tests.

This feels like a lot of waiting, I know, and it can be frustrating. We are grateful for your patience and remain committed to communicating what we know, when we know it. I will also continue to reinforce that our communities are prioritizing our infection prevention and control program, as well as purchasing and stockpiling PPE.

I'd like to close by recognizing our Encore facility and team for their Certified Parkinson's Disease Care designation awarded by the Parkinson & Movement Disorder Alliance. We continue to demonstrate a commitment to training staff to create and deliver care plans with specific attention to the symptoms, medications management, and therapy considerations for people with Parkinson's disease. At Lorien, we know everyone under our roof – not just one nurse – needs to comprehensively understand this complex disease.

Sincerely,

Lou Grimmel, Sr.  
CEO, Lorien Health Services

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