

July 8, 2021

Dear Lorien Residents and Families,

I would like to first thank you again for your continued patience and cooperation with the ongoing restricted visitation and masking mandates. Your partnership throughout this entire time has been very helpful and I am grateful for your understanding. I also hope that you had a wonderful 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration and are finally able to begin enjoying the summer as my family and I have.

While many of the state's restrictions have been lifted, we are, however, still cautious and recognize the risks associated with the highly transmissible COVID-19 variants. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the delta variant is now the dominant coronavirus strain in the U.S., surpassing the alpha variant. Since there is still uncertainty surrounding the new variant and its transmissibility, I'm requesting that you also take precautions to protect yourself and your loved ones as well. In fact, although Lorien's current visitation policy allows vaccinated individuals to be unmasked when visiting a vaccinated resident, I ask that you please consider wearing a mask during your visit.

Now for some good news. Last week, a new bill was proposed that would positively impact all of us should there be another pandemic. The Essential Caregivers Act would allow our residents to designate up to two individuals as "essential caregivers" in the event of a public health emergency. We know how stressful and traumatic it was for you to be separated from your family and we are very optimistic about possible changes to these restrictions in the future.

Additionally, we are proud to announce that Lorien has been asked to participate in a study about antibiotic stewardship with Johns Hopkins Medicine's Dr. Jonathan Zenilman. Dr. Zenilman is a world-renowned infectious disease expert, and we are grateful for the opportunity to work with him on the study to develop better ways for patients to prevent COVID-19 transmission. The study includes a brief 30-minute interview with you and your loved one to discuss your beliefs and attitudes about the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope that you will participate and if you are interested, please call (410) 614-9832.

Finally, as we move forward out of this pandemic, I will be updating you on a monthly basis. Please anticipate a letter from me the second Thursday of each month unless there is an urgent matter that needs your attention. I will continue to communicate any changes to the guidance or our policies in a timely fashion. As always, feel free to contact me or your administrator with any questions in the meantime.

Sincerely,

Lou Grimmel, CEO

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