

October 29, 2020

Dear Lorien Residents and Families:

Holiday celebrations, starting with Halloween on Saturday, are fast approaching. The thought of our cherished traditions being affected by COVID-19 imposed restrictions is beyond disheartening to us all. But we know we must face this reality together and continue to prepare safely as we navigate the pandemic.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has identified many Halloween activities to be high-risk for spreading viruses. They offer several safer, alternative ways to participate in Halloween here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html>.

Please consider our residents, and your loved ones, as you celebrate this weekend. High-risk activities, such as trick-or-treating, could result in you inadvertently catching and spreading viruses. ***Also please remember that our buildings are still not able to accept flowers or homemade food.***

We are all facing these trying challenges, difficult as they are, but we must continue to prioritize the health and safety of our communities. Even the time-honored Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade is going virtual for the first time in its history. The department store announced that the parade will be a television-only special presentation without the crowds or traditional parade route. But the good news is that even in these challenging times, the balloons will still fly even if they are without human handlers.

The upcoming months and holiday celebrations will also be further complicated by the increasing number of virus cases in Maryland, COVID fatigue, and seasonal affective disorder as the days grow longer and darker. So, how can **YOU** help? The flu shot is a simple way to be proactive and reduce the risk of illness. Also, please continue to be diligent with handwashing, social distancing, and wearing a mask. Additionally, re-think how holidays this season will be celebrated with your loved ones. We ask that you avoid visitation if you are not feeling well, and utilize virtual visits as much as possible. While we still have visitation in place for some of our buildings, we are trying to make the process easier by piloting an online visitation scheduling system at Harmony Hall. If the pilot project proves to be successful, we will roll it out to all our Lorien facilities.

We are incredibly grateful for your patience and continued grace as we navigate through another season with this pandemic.

Sincerely,

Lou Grimmel, Sr.
CEO, Lorien Health Services