

February 18, 2021

Dear Lorien Residents and Families:

All our Lorien buildings have completed the second vaccination clinic day with the exception of Harmony Hall, which is scheduled for this Sunday. When we have all the numbers, we will report them to you. In this letter, I'd like to focus on Governor Hogan's announcement last week that the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) issued orders to allow limited visitation to resume at Maryland nursing homes and assisted living facilities. This will go into effect on March 1, provided facilities do not have active COVID-19 cases and follow proper testing protocols.

Although I understand that you may be hopeful that visitation will open completely, we are still being overly cautious and agree with the guidance set forth by MDH and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Evan Shulman, CMS' Director for the Division of Nursing Homes recently noted that "even though cases are plummeting...it's unclear whether 100% of that decline can be attributed to vaccinations. **He added health officials don't yet know if the vaccine prevents transmission or how well it will hold up against COVID-19 variants.**" You can read the entire article here: <https://www.mcknights.com/news/cms-visitation-restrictions-must-remain-prepare-for-return-of-less-collaborative-surveys/> .

Therefore, in compliance with MDH's amended directive and CMS' guidance, I am going to send a special letter next week outlining detailed information around testing and visitation at our Lorien facilities. I understand how challenging it is to be tested prior to visiting your loved ones, so we are currently exploring different convenient testing options for you.

If you are interested in reading MDH's complete amended directive, click here:

[https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/Documents/2021.02.11.02%20-%20MDH%20Order%20-%20Amended%20Nursing%20Homes%20Matter%20Order%20\(Feb%202021%20Updates%20to%20Visitation%20Testing%20Order\).pdf](https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/Documents/2021.02.11.02%20-%20MDH%20Order%20-%20Amended%20Nursing%20Homes%20Matter%20Order%20(Feb%202021%20Updates%20to%20Visitation%20Testing%20Order).pdf)

In the meantime, we are still operating with an abundance of caution and request that home prepared meals and flowers/plants **not** be allowed in our buildings. However, commercially/restaurant prepared food is permitted. Thank you for your cooperation with this.



Finally, I'd like to congratulate our **second** Temporary Nursing Assistant certification class. As I mentioned in our last update, Lorien has established a new "Career Ladder" program, to guide individuals through this temporary nursing certification with the goal of quickly training and developing candidates so they can follow a meaningful career path, from Temporary Nursing Aide all the way up to licensed practical nurse (LPN) and registered nurse (RN). Again, candidates do not need prior experience to take advantage of Lorien's "Career Ladder" program, which includes free training and up-front tuition reimbursement.

We've had a tremendous response so far, and I thank you for your referrals. If you know anyone who wants to start their career with Lorien or is an existing GNA or Nurse that would like to pursue additional education with no cost to them, please share this link:

<https://www.lorienhealth.com/careers/were-hiring> or contact JoAnn Presbitero, jpresbitero@lorienhealth.com .

Sincerely,
Lou Grimmel Sr., CEO