

June 24, 2021

Dear Lorien Residents and Families,

This pandemic continues to be an emotional and exhausting rollercoaster. After 15 long months, your favorite shops and restaurants are opening back up, businesses are welcoming back their staff, yet nursing homes aren't able to progress closer to that same sense of normalcy. I feel your frustration. We are all frustrated.

How is it possible that the world seems to be opening up and it feels as if nursing homes haven't progressed? That is great question that I ask myself every single day. Federal and local health officials have planned for the restrictions to remain in place through the end of the year to protect your loved ones. I know that reasoning does not make it is less challenging for you. What I do know is that Lorien is mandated to follow the guidance given by the Maryland Health Department (MDH) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS).

We were informed shortly after last week's letter was sent out that MDH has amended its directive and order for nursing homes through December 31, 2021. What that means to you is that all Lorien facilities must continue diligent infection control practices and that the **visitation and masking requirements issued by the CMS must remain through December.**

I have tried to put myself in your shoes with every update I deliver. As you may know, my mother was a resident of Harmony Hall and not having the ability to hug her, share a meal, play a game, or watch a show with her without restrictions would have been devastating. I continue to admire your fortitude. Know that I have not, and do not, take these mandated restrictions lightly.

If you are interested, you can read [MDH's complete amended directive and order attached](#). Your building's Administrator will be happy to answer any questions you may have or feel free to reach out to me directly.

When we are able, reopening our buildings without these restrictions will be a day to truly celebrate. Thankfully, it is a day we can now plan for. Your patience and support have been nothing short of amazing. I will continue to express my gratitude long after COVID is behind us.

Sincerely,
Lou Grimmel, CEO

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