



June 26, 2020

To All Residents & Family Members:

We have been operating under COVID-19 restrictions for 15 weeks now, since March 13<sup>th</sup>. Continuing to restrict visitation is understandably challenging for our residents, families and staff, but is necessary in order to protect residents from possible transmission of the virus. Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup> Governor Larry Hogan announced a new plan that would allow limited visitation at nursing homes across Maryland. Visits would be conducted outdoors, and visitors would be required to wear masks and stay six feet apart from residents. What he didn't say, was that facilities will have to meet certain criteria listed by the Maryland Department of Health before they can allow family members and friends to visit.

In addition to the new visitation guidelines, the governor also announced he is initiating weekly testing of all nursing home employees and staff. Testing employees will help facilities prevent outbreaks and hopefully remain virus-free.

The testing will allow state health officials to identify outbreaks and keep the virus from spreading, lowering infection rates and deaths among elderly patients.

Our COVID Committee is regularly reviewing recommendations and evaluating the safety precautions that are in place. We will continue to evaluate and provide you with updated information as we receive additional guidance and when we believe we can make modifications to these precautions.

Over the next two week period we will develop guidelines to allow a safe process for outdoor, scheduled resident visits. Please keep in mind that our guidelines will be based on current Covid-19 activity in our county as well as any new guidance from the Maryland Department of Health. Outdoor visitation is the first step in allowing nursing homes to eventually resume normal operating procedures.

Reminders:

- For virtual visits, please contact Pam or Jocie in Activities at 410-942-2126 to setup a time using Zoom, Google Duo, FaceTime, texting, or telephone call.
- Please remember that we cannot accept deliveries of food or flower arrangements during this COVID-19 pandemic.
- For questions or additional information, please contact:  
Pete Panos at 410-942-2101, email [pete\\_panos@citizenscarecenter.com](mailto:pete_panos@citizenscarecenter.com)

Sincerely,

Peter A. Panos