



June 4, 2020

Dear FutureCare Residents and Families:

This past weekend, many counties entered the final stage of phase one in Governor Hogan's "Roadmap to Recovery" plan as additional restrictions were lifted for several businesses, like retail, restaurants, and youth sports. While the Governor appeared optimistic in his announcement that phase two will begin on Friday, June 5 at 5 p.m., he also stressed that our most vulnerable residents must continue to be cautious. Therefore, it is important to note that the steps to reopening many Maryland businesses are not the same as the steps to reopening Maryland nursing homes.

We know that this separation gets harder as each week passes and it is our hope to see the state move through the stages of reopening safely. In the meantime, we encourage you to continue to use FutureCare's resources to connect remotely with your family and friends. If you have any questions about remote visits, please let us know and we will be happy to help you.

According to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), nursing home facilities must remain closed to visitors until strict health and safety requirements are met sometime in **phase three** of the recovery plan. Please know that we are considering some creative ways to reunite you with your family and friends, while maintaining a safe and secure environment for everyone. As opportunities present themselves, I will keep you updated on developments in this area.

As the Governor readies for phase two, we think it is important to walk through the steps involved to reopening the state, and our facility, together.

Phase 1: This phase focuses on "low risk" activities and involves business, community, religious, and quality of life improvements. The state recently entered the final stage of this phase, transitioning from the Governor's "Stay-at-Home" order to a "Safer-at-Home" advisory. Visitor restrictions for nursing home communities will not be lifted in this phase.

Phase 2: According to the Governor's plan, this will likely be a longer stage of the initial recovery. This phase will begin on Friday, June 5 at 5 p.m. Any businesses that reopen during this period will need to comply with strict physical distancing and appropriate masking requirements. This phase will include numerous steps over many weeks towards recovery. Visitor restrictions for nursing home communities will also not be lifted in this phase.

Phase 3: The plan details that there is no realistic timeline yet from any of the scientific experts for achieving this level, as this requires either a widely available and FDA-approved vaccine or safe and effective therapeutics that can help those most at risk for the virus to reach a full return to normal conditions. Nursing homes will reopen to visitors sometime during this phase when federal and state health authorities deem it safe for residents and visitors.

We appreciate your patience as we await further guidance and timelines for these next phases. FutureCare will continue to follow the prevention guidance from CMS and Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and work closely with the health departments and our hospital partners to keep our residents and community safe. This remains our number one priority.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to the Executive Director.

Sincerely,

Executive Director