

March 9, 2021

Dear Resident and Families,

Over the last several weeks, I spend most of my time advocating with our state agencies to revise guidelines for residents residing in long-term care facilities. As I listened to Governor DeWine's press conference yesterday, I was very disappointed. He shared that in-apartment visit guidelines will be announced in the coming days. However, I believe his announcement falls short of what he could do for residents living in Ohio's congregate senior communities.

I have also received many calls and emails from residents and families, suggesting that we need to weigh the CDC guidelines more heavily. The terrible reality is that we cannot. We have to abide – to the letter of the law – with regulatory agencies that license our communities – even if we disagree with the guidelines. Therefore, only the state can help us.

So, what can we do? I need your help. Perhaps if the Governor hears from you directly, he may change his mind.

Join me in writing to Governor DeWine. **Consider writing a letter stating that now is the time to loosen restrictions for residents residing in Ohio's residential living communities!** With nearly 100% of residents vaccinated in our residential care facility, you should be allowed to leave our campus without the need of quarantine. None of our residents and staff who have been fully vaccinated have contracted COVID-19. The vaccine works!

**Specifically, request that the Governor direct Ursel McElroy, Director of the Department of Aging, update the residential care facility guidelines to align with the current CDC guidelines that state that fully vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine after possible exposure.**

For your convenience, I am including the Governor's address along with a sample letter on page 2:

Governor DeWine  
Riffe Center, 30<sup>th</sup> floor, 77  
77 S High Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Laura Lamb  
President and CEO

March 9, 2021

Dear Governor DeWine,

I listened to your press release today and was very disappointed with your response to assisted living or residential care facility residents' questions. Although allowing in-apartment visits is progress, it falls short of what you can do for residents living in Ohio's congregate senior communities.

But in recent weeks, we've also seen the progress we can make together when we prioritize our long-term care system. The drive to put residents who live in congregate housing and staff at the front of the line for COVID-19 vaccinations has been a game-changer. The number of deaths in nursing homes and assisted living communities have rapidly declined, and thankfully, here in Cincinnati, we have been able to offer indoor visits.

**Now is the time to loosen restrictions for residents residing in Ohio's assisted living communities!** LeadingAge, which represents many nonprofit nursing homes like ours across the country, has called on federal officials to ease their guidance so that we can end damaging isolation. With almost 100% of residents vaccinated in our residential care facility, these residents should be allowed to leave our campus without the need of quarantine upon return. Within our communities, none of our residents and staff who have been fully-vaccinated have contracted COVID-19. The vaccine works! **Why should fully-vaccinated residents not be able to leave our campus to visit family that are also quarantined?** For residential care facilities, this change is within the State's purview. Therefore, I ask you to do the following:

- **Request that Director Ursel McElroy update the residential care facility guidelines to align with the current CDC guidelines that State that fully vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine after possible exposure.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,