March 13, 2020

Dear Beatitude Family,

As the coronavirus (COVID-19) begins to have an impact on our communities, we feel it’s important to share with you more about the steps we’re taking across our campus to do our best to prevent or slow down any potential outbreak in an effort to keep residents, employees and community safe and healthy.

The health and safety of our community has always been our top priority and we are in an unprecedented and rapidly changing situation with COVID-19. I want to assure you that Beatitudes Campus has been working diligently to prepare for a potential spread of the virus. Our emergency preparedness and operations teams are meeting regularly and detailed plans for every area of campus are in place and we are adjusting as new guidance is shared by government entities like the Arizona Department of Health Services and the Center for Disease Control and professional associations like Arizona LeadingAge and LeadingAge National.

We understand the concern about the spread of COVID-19, and we are taking action. As of today, we do not know of a direct connection to the virus or to diagnosed cases of COVID-19. As we learn more about COVID-19 and after guidance from the Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH), we have decided to implement stronger protective measures for the campus so we can mitigate the risk to our community.

First of all, an important measure you can take is to be vigilant about protecting yourself: wash your hands often, avoid touching your face; cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue and discard immediately, and stay at home if you are experiencing respiratory symptoms. Additionally, it is recommended to practice “social distancing,” which is six feet of space between individuals.

Beatitudes Campus is taking enhanced steps across the campus. We have multiple hand sanitation stations for you to use that are located in every building on campus. We have hygiene stations equipped with sanitizer, tissues and face masks in the following locations: Nelson Administration, Health Care Center Lobby, Luther Life Center, Plaza View Lobby and North Entrance of Town Plaza. We are disinfecting surfaces regularly and we urge you to join us in this effort by doing the same with frequently touched objects and surfaces in your home.

Earlier this week, we started screening visitors and vendors to the Health Care Center and Plaza View Assisted Living by asking them questions about symptoms, contact with anyone who has been exposed to COVID-19 and travel history per regulatory guidance.

Today, for the safety of our residents and staff, we are placing further restrictions on visitors across the campus. These guidelines are recommended by the CDC and our state and local health agencies. These restrictions are temporary and they are put in place in an effort to protect you and/or your loved ones. Right now, these restrictions are in effect until the end of March. However, they may be lifted or extended as necessary.

We are cancelling all external group events on campus. This includes luncheons, seminars, board meetings, committee meetings, marketing events, bridge groups, etc. All staff will be required to have their temperatures taken before the start of their shift or workday. If any person has a temperature above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit, we will send them home and they cannot return until they are symptom free for 72 hours per the Maricopa County Department of Public Health.
What does this mean for Independent Living areas on campus?

- We are discouraging social visits from family and friends. We ask that visits be essential in nature as it applies to caregiving or delivery of items, such as groceries, medications, laundry, etc. All essential visitors will be required to sign in and be screened as described above.
- We are suspending all resident activities and programs. This includes fitness and Lifelong Learning classes, social events and worship services.
- Dining venues will remain open. We are asking that independent living residents dine in Buckwald’s, Town Center Bistro and Elaine’s Fine Dining. However, we strongly encourage maintaining social distancing at mealtimes. If you are not feeling well, we are waiving the food delivery fee.
- Campus external transportation will be limited to essential medical appointments and small group trips to the grocery store. The latter will be based on the size of the vehicle and the ability to maintain social distancing. Watch for more information on this.
- If you leave the campus for an extended visit (more than 24 hours), you must inform staff (Kathy Amend) upon your return so that you can receive a wellness check.

What does this mean for the Health Care Center and Plaza View Assisted Living?

- All visitors will be directed to the main entrance of either the Health Care Center or Plaza View.
- Only essential health care personnel and supportive services will be allowed entry. This will include end-of-life visitors. All people will be screened at the entrance with a questionnaire and temperature. If they exhibit any symptoms, they will not be allowed to enter.
- If you leave the campus for an extended visit (more than 24 hours), please inform the staff so you can receive a wellness check.
- All approved visitors will be required to sanitize their hands at entry.
- Visitors will limit their movement within the building.
- Residents will be able to participate in programming in their specific buildings.
- Friends and family are encouraged to communicate with residents in these buildings remotely, through phone calls, video-call applications, video conferencing and social media applications. Beatitudes Campus staff will facilitate this type of interaction for our residents.
- Restaurants in the Health Care Center and Plaza View will be open for residents. We are asking that independent living residents dine in Buckwald’s, Town Center Bistro and Elaine’s Fine Dining.

We understand that this is not an ideal situation; however, we are doing this out of an abundance of caution for our community. This is a fast-evolving health situation, yet we are committed to finding ways to best support our residents, staff and families at this difficult and ever-changing time. We will communicate with you as this situation evolves. We also will be dedicating the upcoming RoadRunner for further details and we recommend that you watch the Community Channel for further information. You can also send questions or concerns to BeWell@BeatitudesCampus.org

My best,

Michelle Just
President and CEO