

May 1, 2020

Dear Beatitudes Families and Residents,

It's been ALMOST two months since I first wrote to you at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, when the United States had 64 reported cases of the virus. Today, we have over one million cases of the disease across the country. Here in Arizona, we have reported 7,202 cases, with more than half of them in Maricopa County. I want to assure you that Beatitudes Campus is doing everything we can to mitigate the disease from entering the campus and spreading. The health and safety of our residents and staff are our top priority, and we are vigilant about following the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Centers for Medicaid and Medicare and our state health agencies.

On Wednesday, April 29, Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey announced an extension of the [stay-at-home order](#) until May 15, 2020, while laying out a step-by-step approach for the gradual economic re-opening of Arizona. What this means for Beatitudes Campus is that we will remain on lockdown at least until then. For residents in independent living, this means that we are going to continue to ask that they stay in their apartments except for essential medical appointments or outdoor walks. For families, we still are enforcing our no-visitation policy across all levels of care. We know this is a big sacrifice for all of you, but it is necessary if we want to minimize any risks that we can control.

We started early on to screen all people who enter the campus (staff, residents, healthcare providers) and taking their temperature and checking symptoms, and we plan to continue that for the foreseeable future. We strongly believe that this is our first line of defense against this disease. We are developing plans for a gradual re-opening of the campus. These plans are being informed by the Arizona Department of Health Services and the Maricopa County Department of Public Health as well as the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services. These agencies are adept at modeling the spread of the disease, and take into effect Arizona's current data, mitigation strategies and other factors. We will keep you informed as our plans are put into action.

Beatitudes Campus has not had any additional cases of COVID-19 at our campus, since we reported on the first two cases on April 3. Our Isolation Unit in our Health Care Center (for residents who are returning from a hospital stay and may have potentially been exposed to COVID-19 or for residents who show symptoms (fever/dry cough) before they are ever tested) is up and running. We have had two skilled nursing residents who were isolated in this unit with COVID-like symptoms; they were tested for the virus, which came back negative, and now have recovered enough to return to their own rooms. Additionally, we have been notified by one of our hospital partners that they will test for COVID-19 prior to any discharge to our skilled nursing area. Our designated COVID-19 Unit in the Agelink Building on the east side of Beatitudes Campus (a separate building away from the main campus) will be open on Monday, May 4. This unit will be used for residents and community members who have been actively treated during a hospital stay for COVID-19 and are stable enough to be released from the hospital, but who will still require additional time with nursing care. We will track and communicate to you any non-resident COVID-19 information from our COVID-19 Unit in Agelink separately.



We are continuing to advocate on a local, state and national level for increased testing for all and particularly for older adults and the workers who care for them and for comprehensive support for all aging services providers across the continuum of care. Katie Smith Sloan, president and CEO of LeadingAge (our national professional organization) participated in President Trump's "Protecting America's Seniors" event held earlier this week, and strongly advocated that more needs to be done to protect the most vulnerable Americans from the coronavirus.

Thank you for putting your trust in Beatitudes Campus. I have received so many notes of support from you, and that fuels not only me, but the entire staff, every day to do the best we can do to protect our beloved residents during this unfathomable health crisis.

Please continue to visit our [website](#) to keep up to date on what we are doing for our residents and for valuable links about COVID-19. As always, reach out to me via the BeWell@BeatitudesCampus.org email if you ever have a question.

We are Beatitudes Strong!

Stay safe and well,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle L. Just". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michelle Just, President and CEO